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Inter-Arab Affairs

PLO Excluded at Islamic Conference on Palestine

JN1512114590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Dec 90 p 2

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] A number of Islamic figures who participated in the Islamic conference on Palestine, held on 4-6 December in Tehran at the invitation of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, have returned to Amman.

Among those invited were the following members of the House of Representatives: Layth Shubaylat, Ya'qub Qirrsh, 'Abd-al-Mun'am Abu-Zant, Ibrahim Mas'ud al-Khuraysat, and Mr. Hasan al-Tall.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, representative Shaykh Ya'qub Qirrsh has said that it seems that the conference, which was held at the invitation of the Iranian Government, was organized in cooperation with Palestinian forces that are not represented by the PLO.

It seemed as though the conference was aimed at engulfing the Unified Leadership of the Intifadah and the Fatah Movement by attempting to present the other forces as the leaders of the struggle, and paving the way for portraying them as the symbol and focus of a new leadership for the Palestinian people. The conference did not reach definite and obligatory resolutions. Despite the requests by some participants, the conference's final statement did not address the need to preserve the Palestinian people's camps in Lebanon or maintain the Palestinian revolutionaries in southern Lebanon.

The statement also failed to address several major issues.

Moreover, the statement ignored a request by some participants to condemn the governments and some Islamic organizations which sent troops and forces under U.S. auspices.

Representative Shaykh Ya'qub Qirrsh said that it was strange not to have had coordination between the organizers of the conference and the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO, and not to have extended an intivation to any of the organization's leaders or to Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, Palestine National Council speaker. Despite this, we see a clear Iranian-Islamic line which seeks to bypass these positions and adopt a revolutionary position that is clearer and closer to the late Imam Khomeyni's trend, more efficient and hostile to the arrogant forces in the world, and more understanding of and practical toward the Palestine question.

Shaykh Qirrsh added that among the best speeches delivered during the conference were those delivered by Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual leader of the Lebanese Hizballah; Shaykh Rashid Ghanushi of Tunisia; and brother Layth Shubalyat. The unionist spirit prevailed in their speeches and bypassed the vituperative personal criticism by other speakers of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Statement Condemns Palestinian Deportations

LD1812190690 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] General Secretariat has strongly condemned the hostile Israeli policy against the sons of the Palestinian people inside occupied Arab territories.

His excellency the ICO secretary general, Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, said in a statement issued today that the ICO is following with great concern the acts of oppression, terrorism, and large-scale detention by the Israeli forces of occupation against the militant sons of the Palestinian people.

Dr. al-Ghabid added that the recent decision of the Israeli authorities to deport four Palestinian citizens outside their homeland, Palestine, falls within the implementation of this hostile policy to Judaize the occupied Palestinian land and empty it of its indigenous citizens.

The ICO secretary general called on the international community, the United Nations, and particulary the UN Security Council permanent members to implement the UN resolutions on halting the deportation of Palestinian citizens from their homeland, and to use their pressure on Israel to prevent it from implementing this decision.

Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid also called on the signatory-states of the 1949 Geneva Agreement—on the protection of civilians living under occupation—to guarantee the necessary protection for the Palestinian people under occupation and to work for enabling them to achieve their national rights, including the rights of returning to their homeland, of self-determination, and of establishing an independent Palestinian state on its national soil whose capital is holy al-Quds.

Palestinian Affairs

UN Action Urged Against 'Deportation Measures'

LD1712182690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] The PLO has addressed an urgent appeal to the UN Security Council to take a decision against the Israeli authorities for deporting [as heard: deportation have not yet taken place] four Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip.

Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, chairman of the Information Department of the PLO, said that this appeal takes an urgent nature as the Israeli Government is now preparing new motions providing for the deportation of

tens of Palestinian nationalists from the occupied territories. He added that the deportation measures adopted by the Shamir Government underlined the need for the Security Council to secure the protection of the Palestinian people under occupation, and to put an end to the postponement and procrastination moves made by the United States to face up to a decision by the Security Council concerning this issue.

Brother 'Abd-Rabbuh stressed that the PLO hopes to see the European Community adopt a rapid position at the Security Council to stop the deportation measures and impose the implementation of the Geneva convention regarding the treatment of the population in the occupied territories.

U.S. Policy Encourages Deportation Moves

JN1712212790 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Commenting on the Zionist occupation authorities' decision to deport four Palestinian citizens from Gaza, brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, press adviser to brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has said that the U.S. policy toward the PLO and the Palestinian people encourages Israel to violate international treaties. He called on the signatory states to the Geneva convention on the treatment of inhabitants of occupied territories to adopt practical measures to force Israel to respect the convention.

PNSF Issues Statement

JN1812204690 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] has issued the following statement:

During its two meetings on 17 December 1990, the PNSF reviewed Arab and Palestinian political developments. It paid particular attention to the very serious and tense situation in Palestine.

While the intifadah is entering its fourth year with momentum, determination, and resolve to continue the struggle, to defeat occupation, and to confront the Zionist aggression and occupation, Zionist repression is also entering a very serious new stage in terms of the expulsion, deportation, and compulsory eviction of Palestinian citizens from their land and homeland as part of a criminal scheme to empty the Palestinian land of its people. This scheme exceeds—in its seriousness and magnitude—what has been announced so far on the number of those expelled and deported. Lists are being prepared to deport and expel hundreds and thousands within the framework of an organized and intensive Zionist immigration to Palestine [words indistinct] territory.

The deportations and expulsions are measures and acts that are contrary to human rights, UN resolutions, and the Fourth Geneva Convention; they are a blatant violation of the most basic international norms. All this is taking place with material, political, and moral support and backing from the United States for the Zionist entity as well as its policy in the occupied territory and in the region, and is part of an American-Zionist role to strike against all liberation forces in the region.

The PNSF, which believes that the American-supported Zionist measures in Palestine are an example of its exploitation of the Gulf crisis, denounces this criminal policy and appeals to Arab and international parliaments and bodies, and to the UN secretary general, to act on every level to prevent the implementation of the Zionist scheme to evict the citizens from the occupied Palestinian territory.

'Arafat Receives Message From King Husayn

LD1412193790 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The brother president and leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received a message from King Husayn of Jordan in reply to the message he sent recently concerning the Israeli threats to our Arab nation.

In his message, the Jordanian monarch said: We share your views about the gravity of such statements, which were pronounced simultaneously with the escalation of the Israeli campaign against the Palestinian people and their land and sacred sanctities. As far as we are concerned, we did not restrict ourselves to condemning such statements and the accompanying continuous aggressions against and violations of the unarmed civilians of the Palestinian Arab people and the Islamic and Christian sanctities, whose protection and respect are one of the hypothesis of the civilized behavior and whose salvation is a pan-Arab responsibility and a mission which should be supported by the whole Islamic nation.

We also warned the international community against the grave dimensions of such statements and stressed that they constitute a violation of the UN resolutions, a blatant defiance of the international legitimacy, and a threat to international peace and security. We particularly pointed out the fact that the Israeli leaders' disregard of the international will, and their adoption of an aggressive expansionist policy which violates human rights, take place under US support at a time during which it actively uses the UN machine and the principles of international legitimacy to turn the world against Iraq in a way contrary to the international developments which consolidate understanding, coexistence, and detente among the peoples and countries and work toward protecting human rights.

We did not restrict ourselves to the condemnation of this double standard policy, but we called for a united and just implementation of the international legitimacy on the disputes of the region and we called for the adoption of a comprehensive view toward these disputes.

We supported the call for linking the solution of the Gulf crisis with work toward a serious and balanced treatment

of the Palestinian issue. We took the opportunity of the international awakening to the importance of the international legitimacy and decided that it is imperative to exploit the available circumstances, especially the increasing conviction that justice and law are an integrated unit, and that peace and security could not be achieved in the region without a comprehensive treatment of its disputes.

'Ambassador' to Jordan Praises EC Rome Statement

JN1712105890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Dec 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Palestinian ambassador here Al-Tayib 'Abd-al-Rahim Sunday welcomed the European Community's statement in Rome about providing protection to the Palestinians.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the ambassador said that the community's decision to increase trade exchanges with the occupied Arab lands was a step in the right direction and designed to ensure the Palestinian people's ability to confront Israel's attempts aimed at destroying the economic infrastructure in the Palestinian land.

"The European Community nations have adopted a special, unique stand with regard to the Palestine question, starting from the 1980 Venice Declaration; the Rome Declaration Saturday assumes a significant importance coming at this particular moment when the United States is going on with its attempts to disrupt the implementation of the international legitimacy, through the Security Council, of the Palestine problem and postponing the question of holding an international peace conference to settle the Arab-Israeli issue," the ambassador added.

The EC leaders ended a two-day summit Saturday by calling for an international peace conference and expressing concern about increasing violence in the Israeli occupied territories.

"The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) hopes that the Rome Declaration will be followed up by the 12 nations exerting extra efforts at all levels to pressure the Security Council into issuing a resolution calling for the international conference and for providing protection for the Palestinian people under occupation," 'Abd-al-Rahim said.

He said that if the United States wanted to pursue its hostile stand on the Palestinian people and their rights, wanted to maintain its support for Israel's actions which endanger peace and security in the Arab World and continued to follow a double standard policy with regard to international issues, the world community, in general, and the European Community, in particular, were called on to deal with the dangerous situation.

He called on the world community to put an end to such double standard policies and to exercise all forms of pressure on Israel to end its occupation of Arab land and grant the Palestinians their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and to set up an independent state under PLO leadership.

FRG Envoy to Tunisia, Abu-Ala' Discuss Aid

LD1412184390 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The German ambassador to Tunisia has stressed that the Palestinian people are the worst hit by the Gulf crisis, which constitutes a new burden on the shoulders of that people. This came during the meeting which took place yesterday morning between Brother Abu-Ala' [Ahmad Kurays Jamal Mazuq], member of Fatah Central Committee and director general of the PLO Economic Department, and the German ambassador. He said that he would convey to his government the call for increasing aid and support to the Palestinian people who were severely harmed by the Gulf crisis.

They also discussed the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories and the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities against them.

The meeting also discussed the latest developments of the Gulf crisis and means to solve it politically and peacefully, away from the drums of war.

At the end of the meeting, the German ambassador conveyed to Brother Abu-Ala' the appreciation of the German Government for the efforts exerted by Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine, toward a peaceful solution of the Gulf crisis and his contribution toward permission being given to all foreigners to leave Iraq.

Algeria

President Hopes To Visit Saudi Arabia 'Shortly'

LD1812123590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid left Tunisia for home an hour ago following an Arab tour that took him to nine countries. The president did not, however, visit Saudi Arabia. President Chadli Bendjedid reportedly said he will visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shortly. On arrival in Tunisia yesterday, President Chadli Bendjedid said there is still hope for finding an Arab settlement to the crisis.

Bendjedid Returns After Area Conferences

LD1812195990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Excerpt] President of the Republic Chadli Bendjedid arrived in Algiers this evening. He was welcomed on arrival by President of the National People's Assembly Abdelaziz Belkhadem, Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, Defense Minister Major General Khaled Nezzar, and president of the Constitutional Council Abelmalek Ben.

A great deal has been said about President Bendjedid's Middle East and Gulf tour in Western media circles. It has been said that it has failed and has not made any substantial progress toward a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. However, President Bendjedid has returned from his tour with convictions and conclusions which confirm that his endeavor has not led to a dead end. Hasibah Tawfiq reports:

[Tawfiq] Tunis was the last stage of President Chadli Bendjedid's tour across the capitals of eight Arab countries over an entire week. By this tour, President Bendjedid wanted to stress Algeria's determination to pursue its efforts to find an Arab solution to Arab problems taking into account the international bodies. In his capacity as the current chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], President Bendjedid was eager to brief Tunisian President Ben Ali on the result of his tour of the Gulf and the Middle East, and the latest developments in the Arab arena.

Before leaving Tunis today, President Bendjedid said at the international airport that he made a tour across some capitals of the Middle East on behalf of the AMU. Regarding the outcome of the tour, President Bendjedid stressed that there were possibilities and hopes for a settlement of the Gulf crisis. Meanwhile, he noted that his tour enabled him to become thoroughly acquainted with the views of the parties directly concerned and to form an idea, even if incomplete, about that complicated issue.

APS [ALGERIE PRESS SERVICE] has commented on the expectations after the tour, and said that President Chadli Bendjedid will visit Saudi Arabia soon to conclude his efforts and to sustain opportunities for peace. Citing Minister of Foreign Affairs Sid Ahmed Ghazali, APS said that an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis is an inevitability, and an Arab contribution to the resolution of the crisis remains possible, even though matters have slipped out of the Arab's control since the advent of the crisis. [passage omitted]

Reportedly To Tour Europe

NC1912065690 Paris AFP in English 0635 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Algiers, Dec 19 (AFP)—Hours after Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid returned from a fruitless nine-nation Arab tour aimed at brokering an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, his foreign minister announced that Mr. Chadli would leave "imminently" for another tour, this one to include Europe.

The minister, Sid Ahmed Ghazali, said in an interview that he was "convinced" that Washington's acceptance of a United Nations Security Council resolution critical of Israel was the sort of signal Iraqi President Saddam Husayn was waiting for before making concessions.

A source who asked not to be identified said Mr. Chadli would first travel to Paris and Rome and may visit Saudi Arabia, which, unlike Iraq, was not one of the countries he visited on his previous tour.

Iraq, Mr. Ghazali asserted, "does not want to cause its own destruction" and if Iraq is "ready to pay a price for its Gulf policy, this price is not unlimited."

Rival Wings of PSD To Reunite

LD1812215590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] After a reconciliation, Hamidi Khodja and Abderrahmane Adjerid, leaders of the two wings of the Social Democratic Party [PSD] have agreed to attend a conference, the party's fourth, the date of which has been set for 10 and 11 January.

Adjerid and Khodja held a news conference at El Safir residence this evening which was attended by radio correspondent Ahmed Kheida who met Adjerid. Initially, Adjerid replied to a question on the most important points to be discussed at the conference:

[Begin recording] [Adjerid] First, to unite ranks; bearing in mind that as of today there will be no Social Democratic Party number one and Social Democratic Party number two. There will be one Social Democratic Party. The conference will change, enhance, and discuss the party's constitution and policy, and controversial issues in the political arena. There are also the electoral alliances to be discussed in preparation for the legislative elections, which are very important. Then we have the reformation of the administration and leadership at the level of leaders and summit.

[Kheida] Who will be the leader?

[Adjerid] In any event, the leader was reelected even at the Annaba conference. Therefore, we will all be equal and strugglers when we enter the conference.

[Kheida] I am asking this question in particular because I know that the PSD has held three conferences, and this will be the fourth conference to be held. Has a basis for action for the united party been prepared?

[Adjerid] In any event, this will not be the last conference. However, naturally the conference will provide a new breath. We are about to embark on deep political changes in Algeria. [end recording]

Our colleague Ahmed Kheida was unable to interview Khodja who left the hall before the arrival of the radio correspondent.

Egypt

Al-Baz Discusses Tripartite Efforts for Peace

NC1812124890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1016 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, has stressed the importance of the existing Egyptian-Saudi-Syrian coordination.

In an interview with the Saudi magazine AL-YAMAMAH to be published tomorrow, Dr. al-Baz said that this coordination constitutes a basic pillar in the sphere of inter-Arab cooperation following the "major breach" resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent suspension of activities by some Arab councils, particularly the Arab Cooperation Council which Dr. al-Baz said has been frozen.

Dr. al-Baz emphasized that the Egyptian-Saudi-Syrian coordination does not constitute a "tripartite axis in the sense of a warlike grouping or a bloc that is separate from other Arab parties." He explained that it seeks to find a solution or a way out of the current crisis in the Gulf. He noted this attempt is being conducted in public and seeks to serve the good of all parties, not one party in particular.

Dr. al-Baz added that the three countries consider that a peaceful solution to the crisis is "the logical and effective solution" that will safeguard the region.

He added that a basic part of the talks among the three countries concerns activity that is carried out in the context of a peaceful settlement which is done by using direct and indirect diplomatic channels to the parties to the conflict. He said that their discussions also deal with ways of handling the situation in the event of a military confrontation.

Dr. al-Baz stressed the importance of the role which Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria are playing at this stage to resolve disputes connected with the Arab region. He noted that the tripartite coordination has passed the stage of discussing ties among the three countries to the stage of drawing up foundations and solutions that will provide a way out of the current crisis and will unite the remnants of Arab ranks so that they can confront this danger which can harm the entire Arab region.

On Egyptian-Saudi relations, Dr. al-Baz stated that the current Arab circumstances have turned Egypt and Saudi Arabia into key elements of any solution to the region's disputes, particularly as Saudi Arabia emerged as one of the main parties to the crisis after it was threatened with the danger of an Iraqi attack.

He said that without the foreign military presence, "for which Iraq's rulers alone are responsible," the crisis would have become more serious, and terrible things would have occurred in the region.

Regarding the Somali crisis and the Egyptian-Saudi effort to resolve it, Dr. Usamah al-Baz said that Somalia is an Arab country and the Egyptian-Saudi activity is based on the Islamic bonds linking the three countries which are members of the Islamic Conference Organization and the Arab League.

He said although the Somali crisis has not been settled so far, hope is pinned on the sincere Egyptian and Saudi efforts to attain a solution by the most suitable means.

Israel's 'Anxiety' Over Gulf Crisis Examined

NC1512135590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM believes that Israel is currently living in a state of anxiety and fear as a result of the developments in the Gulf crisis and the fact that it is being kept in the dark about true intentions and practices, so much so that it has started to protest to the United States about it.

In its commentary published today, the paper says that Israel's constant emphasis on its ability to respond to any possible Iraqi attack against it merely reveals its fears of a retaliatory action, perhaps in response to its attack against the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981. The paper points out that Israel's fears are not just confined to the possiblity of being hit by a stray Iraqi missile that escapes the technological shield. Israel also fears the damage it might incur in the pre- and post-crisis stages.

The paper goes on to say that what concerns Israel most is the ambiguous security arrangements that are being talked about as acceptable measures after the end of the crisis. This is particularly so since any inter-Arab security arrangements will necessarily exclude Israel and even could prove to be a threat to it, particularly if Iraq is included. Likewise, any collective arrangements that include Israel will not be acceptable to the Arabs unless the required Arab-Israeli reconciliation is achieved. This would require Israel to recognize Palestinian rights and abandon the occupied territories at a time when it badly needs them to accomodate new immigrants.

Concluding its commentary, the paper adds that it is feared that under the pressure of the situation and in view of its anxiety, Israel will let go, not by hastening to attack Iraq, but by seeking territorial expansion along neighboring fronts, such as Lebanon or Jordan. By so doing Israel will secure water, expand its security belts, and transfer the Palestinians and replace them with Soviet Jews.

Ministry Official Views Iraqi 'Intransigence'

NC1512075390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has warned that Iraq's continued intransigence and its rejection of withdrawing from Kuwait will drive the region into an abyss because events are moving very fast in the Gulf.

Dr. al-Baz said that the Security Council resolution on the Gulf, which set 15 January as a deadline before authorizing the use of force, is within the framework of giving the Iraqi president a chance to reconsider his position. Dr. al-Baz added that by deciding to hold a dialogue with Iraq, the United States wanted to exhaust all available opportunities so that Iraq or its supporters would not look for excuses with the international community.

Ghali Examines Gulf Crisis, Palestinian Issue

NC1412220290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2049 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Paris, 14 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has underlined Egypt's support for any diplomatic overture that could achieve peace in the Gulf region on the basis of the UN Security Council resolutions and the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government. He stressed that it is our duty to exhaust every possibility to avert a military confrontation in the Gulf.

In a statement to the Paris-based Arabic newspaper AL-SHAM, Ghali expressed the hope that the radical transformation of international relations will extend to the Middle East problem. He noted that the Gulf crisis has shed light on the future shape of international relations.

Ghali asserted that the Arab-Israeli conflict is the crux of tension and instability in the Middle East and has consequences that extend to the Gulf and the areas south of the Mediterranean. He pointed out that the Gulf crisis has demonstrated a clear international desire to settle the Palestinian issue so as to eliminate the tension it is causing in this vital part of the world. He said that this crisis proved to the United States, and to the West in general, that there is hostility toward the West that any biased individual can exploit to serve his goals and ambitions. The Gulf crisis, he noted, has generated an international mechanism for dealing with regional problems and highlighted the effectiveness of the United Nations. The Security Council resolutions set a precedent that may be useful in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Ghali said that Egypt's future is tied to its success in getting out of the Nile valley and moving to the desert. He said that in a world of blocs, there is no place for division and disunity in Arab relations. Regarding Africa, he said that democracy is the way out from its crisis.

Cairo Reportedly Opposes 'Mini Arab Summit'

PM1412121690 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 13 Dec 90 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Opposes Convening Mini Arab Summit in Algiers"]

[Text] Cairo—SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned that contacts have been made over the past few days with several Arab states, including Egypt, with a view to convening a mini Arab summit in Algiers embracing Iraq and Kuwait in addition to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and Algeria. Egypt, however, has refused to accept the invitation until Iraq pledges to implement Resolution 195 adopted by the extraordinary Arab summit and the resolutions adopted by the Security Council. In its reply to the invitation the Egyptian political leadership said that such attempts were designed to provide an opportunity to for the aggressor to score "moral" gains at the expense of the victim of the aggression.

Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have pointed out that Egypt totally rejects what the king of Jordan said about conducting an inter-Arab dialogue to achieve a compromise peaceful settlement of the crisis over Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. It regards such talk as very dangerous, because it is bound to undermine the Arab system which some claim to be safeguarding. It is also bound to serve Israel's views on similar issues, such as the issue of the Palestinian people's representation, self-determination, and right to establish their own independent state.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT has also learned that Egypt refused to receive an Algerian envoy to explain the viewpoint behind the call for such a meeting on the basis of something that some people are calling for a "compromise".

War of Nerves Between Iraq, U.S. Detailed

JN1412133090 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Dec 90 p 7

[Editorial: "A War of Nerves"]

[Text] It is inevitable that campaigns and countercampaigns will escalate between the United States and Iraq before they sit down to talks—even during preliminary meetings. The two sides realize that they are on the verge of a peaceful "battle" which should be well prepared lest either side think for one moment that it is capable of "devouring" the other. Besides, resolve, power, and supremacy need to be exhibited before the international community.

The "new relations" between Baghdad and Washington began noticeably softly: a polite offer for talks amid

menacing signs, received on the other side by a favorable response reflecting great satisfaction. "Electric shocks" then followed successively. Baker warned in an unambiguous manner that force will be used against Iraq in a sudden, massive, and swift manner unless it withdraws and succumbs to the UN Security Council resolutions. Saddam responded by asserting the linkage between the issues in the region. Meanwhile, both sides continued to beef up their concentrations. Bush affirmed that the release of hostages will change nothing, but on the contrary will bring the chances for war closer because of the removal of the "human shields." The Iraqi regime responded through its media that Iraq will not withdraw, and that the decision to return Kuwait to its "rightful owners" is irreversible. When it became evident to Washington that Saddam was maneuvering and playing with the dates of the proposed meetings, wishing to delay his meeting with Baker to the last few days before the UN Security Council's ultimatum expires, the U.S. secretary of state warned that the Iraqi military force must be dealt with one way or another, even if Saddam withdraws from Kuwait. Baker said, however, if Saddam keeps parts of Kuwait—alluding to Saddam's hints that he may keep the al-Rumaylah oil field and the Warbah and Bubiyan islands—then the United States will not hesitate to act against him because aggression cannot to be rewarded.

There is an obvious war of nerves between the two sides in an attempt not only to take each other's pulse and monitor reactions, but also to dominate the atmosphere of the upcoming talks and to win rounds even before talks begin. If this is how strong negotiations take place in crises, and if this is the way which sometimes seems necessary to hide the real intentions and aspirations for peace, in this crisis in particular this seems like another link in the chain of the war that has actually been declared since Iraq's takeover of Kuwait. Hence, such practices are not considered propaganda campaigns but part of actual battles, especially in light of the ongoing countdown for the use of force.

Editorial Analyzes Gulf War, Peace Prospects

JN1412140490 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
11 Dec 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Between a Rock and a Hard Place"]

[Text] There is an air of optimism spreading throughout the ranks of the anti-Saddam camp that Saddam will withdraw from Kuwait and accept the reinstatement of the legitimate authority there soon, or to be more honest, that he will do this after he has reconsidered his calculations in light of the recent UN Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force against him, and in the wake of the statements made by James Baker to the effect that Iraq would be exposed to sudden, massive, and decisive measures if it were to fail to withdraw.

In general, the prevailing feeling is that the measures the international community has taken since the outbreak of the crisis are about to achieve their objective; that Saddam has received a message regarding the seriousness of the resolve to confront him; and that he no longer has any more chances for maneuvering, especially after he was forced to release hostages before the start of the talks with Washington.

It has been noted that the anti-Saddam coalition has at the same time begun saying that there is "no hope" for economic sanctions to make Saddam withdraw, and that it is impossible to wait one more year until the hitherto doubtful results are achieved. If we were to add to this the 15 January deadline given Saddam, we can say that Saddam has been placed between a rock and a hard place. He has to either respond favorably or to expect an assault as Baker warned.

None of Iraq's adversaries took part in issuing this deadline to Saddam. None of them, however, objected to it; this means there is an implicit support for it. Likewise, Washington's offer to hold a dialogue with Iraq and the support expressed for this offer by other capitals shows that the United States has finally managed to lead the chorus of the anti-Saddam coalition without allowing for any discordant voice to be heard, and that it can project a defiant front on behalf of the international community in its separate talks with Baghdad.

All this enhances the possibilities for a favorable Iraqi response, since Baghdad would know the facts of the situation as they are on the ground during the direct talks, and not through false reports. This does not rule out, however, the possibilities of an explosion for one reason or another, particularly considering that the buildup of troops and mobilization by the two sides is in full swing. This shows that the talks will not be held within the context of an agreed upon truce, but within the framework of preparations which are continuing massively. This will cause tension to accompany the talks. Besides, this might make the talks hard and difficult and the views of the two sides irreconcilable, not only because they would be held amid threats to use force but also because each of the two sides is putting his finger on the trigger, believing that it has the ability to make the other side do what it wants.

Wafd Leaders Thanks Nation for Election Boycott

PM1812160190 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
16 Dec 90 p1

["Statement from the Wafd Party to the Nation;" date not given]

[Excerpts] Compatriots, on 16 October 1990 the Wafd Party Higher Committee issued its decision boycotting the People's Assembly elections because of the regime's failure to respond to our calls for the necessary guarantees. [passage omitted]

The regime, its writers, and its lackeys blamed us for taking such a decision, which they described as "negative."

The election battle ended a few days ago. The serious wrongs and incidents that occurred confirmed that we were right, and proved beyond any doubt that the elections were as innocent of the label of honesty as the wolf was innocent of the blood of Jacob's son. Because of the rigging and falsifications that have taken place, they do not reflect the people's opinion in any way. [passage omitted]

The Wafd Party, its Higher Committee, and all its members are proud of the struggling, patient people who deserve full thanks and appreciation for responding to the boycott call. The majority did not take part in these elections. Official statistics show that only five to twelve percent of the electorate in the cities did actually vote, and that some candidates won on votes not exceeding three percent of the registered electoral lists. Nobody, however obstinate, can claim that this assembly represents the people. [passage omitted]

Compatriots, we renew the pledge to God and to you that the banner of struggle will continue to be raised until democracy in Egypt becomes a fact and not just a word, until it develops day by day under a new constitution. We have always called for such a constitution, and we have called for the formation of a constituent assembly to draft it in fulfillment of the nation's aspirations, making it the source of all power. We have in fact prepared a draft for that purpose. You undoubtedly recall that the Wafd Party leader explained the basic principles in detail in his public speeches, statements, and interviews. [passage omitted]

Compatriots, do your best; be patient and steadfast, young and old. Set an example of sacrifice and self-denial as your fathers and forefathers did, and do not let the love of passing interests outweigh the love for the homeland. May God guide our steps.

AL-WAFD Demands 'Leadership for Change'

PM1812131590 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Dec 90 p 6

[Article by Dr. Ibrahim Dusuqi Abazah: "And What After the Boycott?!"]

[Text] Now what are you going to do?! Your will has been rigged in the elections and in the election results, and the ruler has seized the dissidents' votes, making for himself an imaginary majority in their name against the will of the real majority who reject him and demand his overthrow!!

What are you going to do now that you have been exasperated, your skin has been burned, and your hope for a better life has been dashed?!

Will you wait for the United States to rescue you from that affliction? Or are you expecting divine intervention on orders from heaven?!

No one will rescue you from the misery and misfortune which you are experiencing if you do not take your lives in your hands and unite in the need to get rid of that plague!!

We have never heard of a people whose will was stolen, whose honor was encroached on, and whose money was squandered being given back their freedom by an external will and offered to them on a silver plate!!

The road before us is clear and open. The aim is to bring down the totalitarian system planted by the July revolution and inherited by its sons, generation after generation. Our means is not the bullets with which they shoot us whenever we try to complain or protest, but the legitimacy imposed by human rights for all mankind. We are entitled to turn our backs on the rulers. We are entitled to refuse to obey them in sin. We are entitled to use every organized means to put pressure on them, to force them to respect the nation's will and refrain from using it to bolster their policy and justify their behavior. This is because, in the name of the people's will, loans have been secured, treaties concluded, and armies mobilized. In the name of the majority of the people, the very special affairs of this nation and the most sacred of its values and principles have been relinquished. There is nothing left to be encroached on except for our sons to be sold in the slave market, as slave traders have hired them in rich world states for slave labor to perform difficult jobs without any security or guarantees!!

In the name of the people's will, National Democratic Party governments have committed strategic errors in education, health, architectural planning—errors that cannot be redressed in a century. The errors in education, public health, housing, and environment are very costly; as a result of them Egypt has squandered billions from the loans without reaping any suitable economic or social yield. Education, health, housing, and environment still remain. All our major issues are hanging in the air waiting for someone to accept the job of correcting and resolving them through new thinking and new ideas derived from that people's interests and subject to their will.

What are you going to do then, now that the regime has said its piece and had its will reflected in the recent elections?!

You have in front of you the party and the unionist institutions. Why do you not join and rally around them?! These parties' prime concern is the constitution and constitutional reform issue. Our conditions will not improve and our affairs will not be corrected except through that principled reform. It is the constitution which enables us to choose the rulers. It is the constitution that enables us to direct them, keep a close watch on their conduct, and question and dismiss them. So the constitution is the only guarantee of the regime's honesty and impartiality, and without the constitution there can be no guarantee or hope for anything. We, like many nations before us, have gone

through many experiments and have learned the lessons. It is not true that bread brings us freedom, but it is freedom which brings us bread!!

Let us agree on a draft democratic constitution that would be a firm foundation for rule in our country—a constitution that places the people above the rulers and devises effective means to control and question their actions and conduct.

Let us teach that constitution to our sons and explain to them how it is essential to their freedom, dignity, happiness, and prosperity. Let us—parties, unions, and individuals—knock on the doors of freedom, demanding the constitution and rejecting any bargains or settlements. There is only one road to freedom—the road of sacrifice and struggle. Democracy has one face only—rule of the people by the people and for the people. Anything other than that is idle talk, falseness, and clowning!!

Let us move a courageous step in the right direction. We parties and unions have committed ourselves to a minimum level of legitimate demands to restore power to the people and halt the economic and social losses that have destroyed every hope for development and progress. We should at least agree and commit ourselves to a political action strategy that would place us in a collective confrontation with the regime. The time has come for us to rally strongly at that point. I do not believe that there is anything to disunite us. So why this hesitation and this laxity?! Is the time wasted not a loss for the nation?!

A leadership for change must be brought about. It must make a move, otherwise who will lead the change if the parties, unions, and vanguard of this nation are not given that role?!

All eyes and hearts are awaiting the results of the boycott. We did not boycott the elections for the sake of it. We boycotted them for the sake of a new start in the face of the regime, its government, and its party—a start that must be decisive and relentless and on which there can be no backtracking: either democracy or nothing at all. If the regime continues to insist on a nondemocratic process, rigging, and deception, we will continue our struggle to end its undemocratic existence and expose its illegitimacy, which it trumpets on all occasions.

Peripheral skirmishes at home or abroad are unimportant. The main battle—indeed the mother of battles—is the political reform battle. After it, not before, all reforms will take place.

Tourism Minister's Resignation Said Confirmed

PM1812161990 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Dec 90 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Tourism Minister Resigns in Protest Against Government Policy"]

[Excerpt] AL-WAFD has learned that Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Fu'ad Sultan has submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and also asked the political leadership not to include him in the new cabinet reshuffle. The minister attributed his resignation to a lack of clarity in the government's current economic and political policies. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Discusses Sit-In at Sudan Embassy

NC1812131090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1103 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 18 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received 'Izz-al-Din Hamid, Sudanese ambassador to Cairo.

Following the meeting, the Sudanese ambassador said that his talks with Dr. Ghali focused on relations between the two countries. The ambassador described bilateral ties as distinguished and well developed and expressed the hope that they will be expanded in all spheres. [passage omitted]

Concerning the sit-in by some Sudanese students at the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo, 'Izz-al-Din said that this topic has been a source of concern for us since yesterday, but added that the problem is on the road toward a solution.

The Sudanese ambassador explained that the students, who are from southern Sudan, have certain demands concerning allowances and financial support. He said: We know that the students are also being influenced by the activities of some elements opposed to the regime in Sudan and sympathetic to the rebel movements in the south. The ambassador said that Sudan is trying to contain this problem.

Students End Sit-In

NC1812200390 Cairo MENA in English 1940 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, Dec 18 (MENA)—Students from the Sudanese south, studying at Egyptian universities, tonight ended their sit-in around the Sudanese Embassy here after the regional government in south Sudan promised them to resume remittances of financial aid. Two hundred Sudanese students yesterday besieged the Sudanese Embassy here and prevented the Sudanese ambassador from leaving the premises thus forcing him to spend the night there along with the other members of the embassy staff.

'Voice of Kuwait' To Be Broadcast From Cairo

JN1812210590 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Dec 90 p 6

[Report by Salamah Hasan]

[Text] The executive program of the Egyptian-Kuwaiti protocol for media cooperation in the fields of radio, television, press, news agencies, and information organization has been signed by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and his Kuwaiti counterpart, Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub.

According to the program, the two countries will cooperate in and coordinate all media coverage of the Kuwaiti people's struggle, and will support joint production toward this objective.

Safwat al-Sharif said the protocol allows the Kuwaiti brothers to express their cause through all news media until the Kuwaiti media return home and receive support after the liberation. He said that the "Voice of Kuwait" will soon be launched from Cairo, and that the program will be completed on the land of free Kuwait, God willing.

The Kuwaiti minister thanked the government and people of Egypt and said President Mubarak has laid strong foundations for supporting Kuwait's cause. He said the coming weeks will witness strong and tangible activity by the Kuwaiti media, starting from Cairo and spreading throughout the world.

Attending the signing ceremony were Engineer Fathi al-Bayyumi, chairman of the board of trustees of the Radio and Television Union; Dr. Mamduh al-Baltaji, chairman of the General Information Organization; heads of departments of radio and television; and Rida al-Fili, director of Kuwaiti Television.

Kuwaiti Finance Minister Arrives for Discussions

NC1812071690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2348 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—Kuwaiti Finance Minister Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah al-'Adhbi arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit that will last several days. Noting that his visit is aimed at bolstering Egyptian-Kuwaiti economic cooperation, he expressed the hope this cooperation will make progress in new areas of investment, particularly industry.

He asserted that the Kuwaiti Government wishes to undertake investment projects in many fields in Egypt, which he described as a secure country.

Shaykh Khalifah al-'Adhbi added that there is a plan to demand reparations from the Iraqi regime for the negative repercussions of its invasion of Kuwait.

On Kuwaiti assets abroad, the Kuwaiti finance minister said that they were not frozen to deny them to the Kuwaiti Government but rather to protect them from the Iraqi invaders. He pointed out that the Kuwaiti Government has succeeded in obtaining some of these assets.

He explained that the decision to freeze the assets was made to punish Iraq and to force it to withdraw completely from Kuwait.

Asked about plans to reconstruct Kuwait after its liberation, Shaykh al-'Adhbi said there are standing instructions on this matter from Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister. He added that the various Kuwaiti ministries are coordinating among themselves to draw up such a plan. He noted that other Arab countries will have a role in reconstructing Kuwait.

On Kuwaiti investments in Egypt, he said: We have begun new projects and our old projects are continuing.

Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister for cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, and Finance Minister Muhammad al-Razzaz received the Kuwaiti minister at the airport.

Kuwaiti Information Minister Departs Cairo

NC1712203790 Cairo MENA in English 1909 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, Dec 17 (MENA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub left here this evening following a two-week visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

In a pre-departure statement, he said that he met with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and signed with him a protocol for cooperation between Egypt and Kuwait which will be the base for bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

He added that he will make a tour that will take him to Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey. He was seen off at the airport by Safwat al-Sharif.

Chadian Envoy Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC1612075190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Muhammad 'Ali 'Abdallah, deputy foreign minister and envoy of Chadian President Idriss Deby, arrived in Cairo early this morning.

He said on arrival that he is carrying a message from the Chadian president for President Husni Mubarak on the recent developments in Chad. He added that he will take this opportunity to explain to President Mubarak the reasons for establishing the new regime and to brief him on the current situation in Chad.

He said that he will also ask for Egyptian aid in Chad's reconstruction and development in light of the cordial relations between the two countries. He added that the Chadian president was keen for Egypt to be the first country to receive a message from the new regime.

Mubarak Receives Envoy

NC1912101490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Muhammad 'Ali 'Abdallah, the Chadian president's personal envoy, at the presidential office this morning. Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Chadian ambassador to Egypt also attended the meeting. The Chadian envoy said after the meeting that he had

given President Mubarak a message from Chadian President Idriss Deby on recent developments in that country. He noted that his visit is the result of Chad's desire to inform Egypt and President Mubarak about these developments.

President Mubarak has also received Omara Atubo, Ugandan minister of state for foreign affairs. Dr. Butrus Ghali and the Ugandan ambassador attended the meeting.

The Ugandan minister stated that Uganda supports all UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis. He appealed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to respond to the international desire to resolve the crisis peacefully, adding that he had given President Mubarak a message from Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni dealing with Egyptian-Ugandan ties.

Al-Sharif Leaves With Message for Al-Qadhdhafi

NC1812130190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif left for Tripoli on a one-day visit this morning. He will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. This comes as part of the ongoing consultations between the two countries.

MENA has learned that the message explains recent Arab and international developments, particularly in connection with the Gulf crisis. It also deals with bilateral ties and the arrangements made thus far to consolidate these relations. It also reviews the latest developments pertaining to these arrangements.

Returns With Proposed Meeting

NC1912104090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1007 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that he has brought back a message for President Husni Mubarak from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. He said this is part of the ongoing consultations on a number of Arab and African issues between the two leaders.

The information minister, who returned from Libya early today, said that in his message Col. al-Qadhdhafi proposes that a summit between the two leaders be held to discuss ways to maintain inter-Arab solidarity at this critical time.

He also said that he had delivered a message from President Mubarak to Col. al-Qadhdhafi on developments in the Gulf crisis, Arab and international contacts and consultations, and the various steps required to implement the Egyptian-Libyan cooperation agreements which were signed earlier this month.

Cooperation Minister Meets World Bank Officials

NC1512211290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, met today with the World Bank mission that is visiting Cairo. He reviewed with World Bank officials arrangements for the establishment of a social fund to help the Egyptian economy overcome the effects of the current Gulf crisis. The World Bank has already agreed to setting up such a fund.

Dr. 'Irfan Shafi'i, first under secretary of the International Cooperation Ministry, disclosed that the fund will be established with initial capital of $400 million. Arab and European countries have promised contributions that may increase the fund's capital to $1 billion at a later stage, Dr. Shafi'i said.

Dr. Shafi'i noted that the current talks with the World Bank mission also involve a discussion of the loans that the bank plans to extend to Egypt in the next phase. Egypt is expected to obtain a loan of $300 million from the bank as part of a $900-million loan that the World Bank is expected to give Egypt over the past [as received] three years to bolster the financial structure of the Egyptian economy, enhance employment programs for the public sector and the government, and finance industry.

Former Sudanese President Discusses Opposition

NC1612152690 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 3 Dec 90 p 2

[Interview with former Sudanese president Ja'far Numayri by correspondent Muhammad Mustafa in Numayri's house in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Mustafa] What do you think about the Sudanese Government's stand on the Gulf crisis and its support for the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait?

[Numayri] My analysis of this stand is that the Sudanese Government—I mean here the ruling military wing which is called the Islamic Front—has been bought. This front is playing the major role and is secretly holding contacts with Iraq and Iran. [passage omitted]

I believe that there are terrorist cells in Sudan that have been trained in Iraq. They engage in terrorism and torture in order to support the regime inside Sudan. The stands taken by the military wing led by 'Umar al-Bashir in all the Arab conferences were very strange to us in Sudan, particularly as it is known that Sudan had sent a small force to defend Kuwait during the rule of [former Iraqi dictator] 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim. It was a small force and was merged with the Saudi forces. Thus the Sudanese regime's stand is perplexing, and the strange thing is that it still insists on this stand. We are trying to change this stand and to show the Arab world that this is

not the Sudanese people's position but that of a regime that represents the military wing of one party.

[Mustafa] There are reports that Iraqi missiles are now deployed in Sudan and targeted at Egypt. How do you assess these reports?

[Numayri] There are really no missiles deployed, but there is Iraqi military equipment. We hear from our brother officers and soldiers about the arrival of Iraqi equipment. The latest reports say that Iraqi military equipment is in an area north of Khartoum. A member of the Revolutionary Command Council lives there so that he can be in charge there. Most officers are not allowed into this area—only specific officers enter it. These things raise big questions. The same thing happened in Port Sudan where equipment has arrived and where depots have been prepared for them. [passage omitted]

[Mustafa] Some people are saying that your presence in Cairo is one of the reasons for the tension in relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese Governments.

[Numayri] Yes. Some people are saying that the Egyptian Government is exploiting my presence in Cairo as opposition. But this is not true. On the contrary, my presence in Cairo is a guarantee for them because the Egyptian Government does not, in principle, allow all political refugees to act politically against their country. This is an historic tradition in Egypt.

I believe that the Sudanese Government should thank Egypt because the latter is almost restricting my freedom of action and movement. If I had been in another place, I would have become another John Garang. [passage omitted]

[Mustafa] It is said that you are leading the Sudanese opposition movement from Cairo, and that you are planning a coup against al-Bashir's government. What do you say?

[Numayri] This is true in the sense that the al-Bashir government deserves to go. But I do not lead an opposition movement in the form of partisan opposition. I support whoever opposes al-Bashir's movement, but not on an ideological or sectarian basis. I am working with the union of the national forces which includes the working people's forces—that is workers, intellectuals, traders, soldiers, labor union members, and professionals. Thus, when I write a pamphlet I sign it head of the union of the national forces or the union of the working people's forces.

I am in fact leading an open opposition—that is, I am working overtly. When I write something I send it to the embassy so as to send to 'Umar al-Bashir. These messages have caused a split in the Council itself. Some members said that the purpose of these message is to advise. Proof of this is that they have acted on many of the things I have written and changed some of their policies. We are conducting a constructive opposition for Sudan's benefit. [passage omitted]

Libya

Reportage on Visit of Algeria's Bendjedid

Met by Al-Qadhdhafi, Jallud

LD1712161890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 17 Dec (JANA)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid arrived in Tripoli today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He was given a big reception at Tripoli International Airport, where the brother leader of the revolution headed those who were at the airport to welcome him. Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud also participated in the welcome. [passage omitted]

Discusses Arab Issues

LD1712193690 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 17 Dec (JANA)—Chadli Bendjedid, president of the sisterly Republic of Algeria, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a short visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

The brother leader of the revolution and President Bendjedid held talks in Tripoli this evening, focusing on the issues of the Arab nation and efforts to find an Arab solution to the Kuwaiti crisis. The talks also dealt with the results of President Bendjedid's tour to the Arab East in his capacity as the current chairman of of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) Presidential Council. The talks were attended by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Brothers Sid Ahmed Ghazali, [Algerian] minister of external affairs; Mohamed Sehnoun, President Bendjedid's political adviser; and the secretary of AMU affairs at the General People's Committee. [passage omitted]

Chadli Bedjedid, president of the sisterly Republic of Algeria, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this evening at the end of a short visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. President Bendjedid was accorded an official farewell at Tripoli International Airport, where the brother leader of the revolution was at the forefront of those who saw him off. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Defense Minister Meets Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1812162490 Tripoli JANA in English 1503 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [Dec] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has received today Mr. Albert Mansur, the minister of defence in Lebanon, and his accompanying delegation who are currently on a visit to great al-Jamahiriyah.

Praises Revolution, Leader

LD1812165990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1431 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Dec, JANA—Mr. Albert Mansur, the minister of defense of sisterly Lebanon has lauded the principled and constant stances assumed by the great al-Fatih Revolution and its leader, the guardian of Arab nationalism, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi vis-a-vis questions of destiny relating to the Arab nation, apart from the genuine efforts made by the leader for bringing back security and peace to Lebanon.

Interviewed by JANA in Tripoli, Mr. Mansur has said that he is paying this visit to Great al-Jamahiriya asking help and assistance from it to make legitimacy prevail throughout Lebanon.

He has reaffirmed the strong brotherly relations between the Libyan Arab people and the Lebanese people pointing out that the Libyan Arab support to Lebanon has been continuing ceaselessly over the last few years adding that the Lebanese people pay tribute to its brotherly Libyan Arab people for its support and backing.

He has reconfirmed the resolve on the part of the Lebanese people to liberate south Lebanon from the Zionist savage occupation calling for reaching a peaceful solution to the Kuwait crisis pointing out that Lebanon supports a peaceful solution to this crisis within an Arab context.

He has condemned the killing of Libyan Arab nationals in Chad by puppet Habre and the imperialist forces saying that Lebanon stands in solidarity with its brotherly Libyan Arab people against all the imperialist plots.

Peace Marches Urged To Eliminate Arab Borders

LD1712143190 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1140 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The Zionist occupation gangs last night and this morning brought huge military reinforcements into Jerusalem particularly in the vicinity of the al-Aqsa Mosque with a view to desecrating it. They prevented Palestinians from entering Jerusalem for fear of continued demonstrations, confrontations, and clashes by the heroes of the soldiers of stones in the face of the Zionist gangs.

Jerusalem and other parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip have witnessed a comprehensive strike in protest against the Zionist gangs' deportation of 4 heroes of the soldiers of stones from Gaza to outside Palestine.

Palestinian sources expect the Zionist invaders to commit another massacre at the Al-Aqsa Mosque akin to the massacre committed by the barbaric Zionists on 18 November when 31 revolutionaries were martyred including the cleric of the Al-Aqsa Mosque; 800 others were wounded. [passage omitted]

The great September 1969 revolution, whose password was Jerusalem, continued throughout the past 22 years and will continue to be the staunch enemy of the forces of imperialism and Zionism. It is the principal prop of the steadfastness of our Arab people in Palestine and the daily instigator that warns about the dangers threatening our greater Arab homeland. It provides living examples that abound in the realm of reality, that the Zionist train of death which operates with the imperialist strategic power, was not directed against any particular Arab capital to the exclusion of other Arab capitals, but was aimed at all the Arab capitals without any exception from the ocean to the Gulf.

The only option and deterrent against the Zionist and imperialist designs that will check their madness and arrogance lies in amassing the human material capabilities of the Arab nation. They must utilize this for the battle to overcome backwardness, build progress, and liberate Palestine and the rest of the occupied Arab territories and establish the one legitimate pan-Arab state on the debris of the midget entities.

Peaceful unity processions must be staged from 1 January 1991 to eliminate the imaginary borders which divide the great Arab homeland. The popular masses should take control of their destinies and their affairs and build for their own present and future generations so that the Arab nation will deserve to live on the land and under the sun in this age which has no room for the midget and the weaklings and the small entities.

The revolutionary forces, from the ocean to the Gulf, should mobilize and consolidate the ranks of the Arab masses in preparation for the year of the realization of Arab unity, the year 1991, and affirm that the attainment of victory always depends on the revolutionary unity brigades, the makers of glory and human civilization, the civilization of the era of the masses.

Morocco

Paris Radio Reports Arrest of Union Leaders

LD1812122690 Paris Domestic Service in French 1000 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Mohamed Titna-Alaoui, the regional secretary of the General Workers' Union of Morocco, has been taken before the Fes Court of First Instance. According to the paper L'OPINION, an opposition paper, Mr. Titna is accused of revolt and armed unlawful assembly on a public thoroughfare, and of spreading false information. The same paper announces the arrest of Mr. Bouchta Boujoual, the secretary general of the public works union of Fes. The two unions were at the root of the general strike of 14 December, which led to the riots in Fes.

MAP Report Ignores Arrests

LD1812141390 Rabat MAP in English 1336 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, Dec 18 (MAP)—It is of utmost importance to set up a fair and unbiased enquiry commission to collect data and define responsibilities in the violent developments in Fes, says the "L'OPINION" daily of the Istiqlal Party (Conservative-Opposition).

Commenting editorially on the tragic events, the daily says a comprehensive and detailed report should be drawn on the causes behind the outburst and responsibility for the blood spilled.

The list of grievances repeatedly submitted by the Democratic Labor Confederation (CDT) and the General Union of Moroccan Workers (UGTM) should be seriously considered and workers' needs met through genuine dialogue, says the daily.

"L'OPINION" concludes saying Morocco must embark on a train of reforms to pave the way for a better future meeting popular demands.

Minister Links 'Foreign Quarters' to Strikes

LD1812140390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] In a speech to the Parliament yesterday, the Moroccan Interior Minister accused foreign quarters—without naming them—of being behind the recent incidents in Morocco. The Moroccan official said he has evidence that confirms the involvement of a number of countries and their mass media apparatuses in these disturbances. He said he will reveal this evidence in due course. The Moroccan minister warned that Moroccan perpetrators in these incidents will be punished according to the law. According to news reports, tension returned to Fes yesterday, where one trade unionist was detained. With regard to the call of the prime minister to set up an inquiry commission into the incident, the opposition parties demanded that the commission be independent and neutral.

Democratic Party Issues Communique on Strikes

LD1812145790 Rabat MAP in English 1349 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, Dec. 18 (MAP)—The Political Bureau of the National Democratic Party (PND-Agrarian) denounced the riots and aggressions perpetrated against public institutions and private property during the events last Friday in Morocco. Those events in some Moroccan cities soiled the call for a general strike launched by the General Union of Moroccan Workers (UGTM-close to the Istiqlal Party) and the Moroccan Labour Confederation (CDT-socialist)

The bureau released a communique in which it expressed its "deep regret for the acts of violence which caused several casualties and important material damages". These deplorable events are contrary to Morocco's democratic practices and stain the image of Morocco abroad, the communique underlined. "By backing labour's legitimate claims to improve its working conditions and standard of living, the PND expressed rejection and complete opposition to the exploitation of these claims by some milieux which manipulate workers to make claims that are incompatible with trade union action", concluded the release.

Sudan

Jordanian Papers Allege Garang Visited Israel

EA1712151690 Khartoum SUNA in English 0916 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Dec (SUNA)—The rebellion leader John Garang has (?made) a three-day visit to Israel at the end of last November during which he met the Israeli prime minister, defence minister, chief of staff and his deputy, according to a Jordanian daily. AL-AHALI daily of Jordan, in its edition of 12 December, quoted what is termed as special source in Athens as saying the rebellion leader had earlier visited Israel in response to an invitation by the Israeli defence minister.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian independent SHAYHAN weekly published on 15 December an urgent report titled "The Conspiracy Against Sudan", disclosing that some Arab circles backed up by the USA are practising pressure on Sudan and bribe some of its neighbouring countries to co-operate with the rebels on account of Sudan's stance towards the Gulf crisis. SHAYHAN weekly alleged that an official Sudanese source had expressed regret over the said practices that include supporting the rebellion movement, attracting of foreign support for the rebels and inciting some recent officers in the Sudanese Army to oppose the Government of the Sudan. The weekly reaffirmed the Americans plotting to impose siege on Sudan, adding that the Government of the Sudan is fully aware and capable of crushing all the plots against it.

SPLA Denies Allegations

EA1812175690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] In a message to Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], the official spokesman of the SPLA has denied that the chairman and commander in chief had visited Israel at the end of November, last month, as claimed by the junta over Radio Omdurman. The spokesman affirmed that the chairman had never visited Israel at any time during the last seven years of the SPLA or before the war. The spokesman said whenever regimes in Khartoum are in trouble, as this one was recently in Western Equatoria, they look for ways to explain away their poor performances and invariably they invoke alleged intervention by a foreign power. It is a typical

oppressor syndrome that the oppressed are incapable of doing anything on their own.

In the past, it used to be Russians, East Germans, Cubans, Yemenis, etc. But nobody can any more believe these lies, and so the only convenient foreign stick left to the regime with which to beat the SPLA from time to time is an alleged Israeli connection, which the movement wishes to categorically assure the Sudanese people that such a connection does not exist.

The National Islamic Front [NIF] junta makes these unfounded allegations by a nameless and faithless journalist in order to: 1. smear the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]-SPLA image in front of the Sudanese people and the Arab world; 2. Try to reduce the growing support of the SPLM-SPLA in the north by associating the movement with a common Arab enemy; 3. Try to cause friction between the SPLM-SPLA and its allies in the National Democratic Alliance and the Legitimate General Command and thereby also smearing these allies as collaborating with the internal and external enemies of the NIF junta, which falsely sees itself as representing the genuine Sudanese interests, Arabism and Islam. The whole idea is a begging strategy to get badly-needed finance and material to prosecute their unjust war.

But, the spokesman concluded, the people in the north cannot believe the NIF's claims that Dr. John Garang ever visited Israel because the chairman and commander in chief was meeting influential representatives of northern [Sudanese] public opinion at that material time the NIF claimed he was visiting Israel—an impossible feat to be in two places at the same time.

Tunisia

Algeria's Bendjedid Meets With Ben Ali 18 Dec

LD1812131890 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and his guest, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, held talks in the latter's residence, at Essaada Palace in La Marsa this morning. These discussions covered the means to strengthen bilateral cooperation and matters related to the march of the Arab Maghreb Union, as well as developments in the Gulf crisis in light of the Algerian president's tour of a number of countries of the region and the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Deputy Amir Addresses People on National Day

NC1612195690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 16 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isat Al Khalifah, deputy amir of Bahrain, has emphasized that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait is the issue of the hour not only for the region, but for the entire world.

In an address today marking the 19th anniversary of national day in Bahrain today, his highness called for mobilizing all national, regional, Arab, Islamic, and international efforts to settle this issue by all necessary means in accordance with the resolutions of the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Security Council as well as the principles of international legitimacy. This will restore Kuwait's independence, freedom, and full sovereignty under the rule of its government and the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, he added.

His highness praised the Bahraini Government efforts led by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah to tackle this issue at the national level. He said that the Bahraini Government faced the various requirements of this situation firmly and prudently, both by hastening to consolidate Bahrain's economic sector, which enjoys the confidence of all economic circles in the world, and by facilitating services and providing all the daily goods and needs to the citizens. His highness praised the citizens' response and cooperation, who rallied behind their leaders, and added that this contributed to backing the national efforts to handle the situation.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa praised the Kuwaiti people's complete rejection of the occupation and insistence on their legitimate leadership and government, as well as the united position of both the Kuwaiti people and leadership in this predicament. He stressed that Kuwait's outstanding official and popular stand is the rallying point for all the Arab, Islamic, and international support for Kuwait.

His highness the deputy amir lauded the firm stand adopted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. He added that Saudi Arabia is bearing the brunt of this situation, using all means and resources, with the cooperation and solidarity of all the supportive and friendly Arab, Islamic, and international forces, which from the outset hastened to take positive and constructive stands to protect the security of the region.

At the Gulf level, his highness the deputy amir said that what is of interest to us in this regard is to consolidate and develop the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. He added: Toward that end and within the framework of the GCC agreements and bylaws, we look forward to the 11th GCC summit in Qatar to make the GCC a strategic and economic power more capable and effective in developing itself, protecting its entity, and in seeking open and constructive cooperation with all its neighbors and friends. This will help serve the Arab nation's interests and its just causes, including the Palestinian people's cause, as well as the common Arab aspirations for development on new and well-studied foundations. It will also contribute to preserving regional, Arab, and international peace which, in our new world order, has become indivisible.

His highness the deputy amir added: Our countries and our region have experienced many challenges in their recent history, but thanks to the common cohesiveness and prudence, they managed to overcome them. He expressed his confidence that the current crisis will be overcome with cohesiveness and determination, thus sparing the countries of the region peril and danger, as long as there is sincere good will, determination, and wisdom. [passage omitted]

UK, Norwegian Defense Officials Arrive for Visit

NC1812140890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1224 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Manama, 18 Dec (WAKH)—Archibald Hamilton, UK minister of state for the Armed Forces, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Manama this afternoon on a visit to Bahrain. The delegation will hold talks on current developments in the Arab Gulf and bilateral relations.

Norwegian Defense Minister Johan Jorgen Holst arrived in Manama today for talks on the current situation in the Gulf and on issues of common concern. The delegation was received at the airport by Major General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini (?air defense) force; Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-(?Salman) Al Khalifah, chief of staff; and a number of senior officers.

Norwegian Minister Departs

NC1812200990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1945 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Manama, 18 Dec (WAKH)—Norwegian Defense Minister Johan Jorgen Holst left Manama this evening after a short visit after talks with Bahraini officials on developments in the Gulf crisis and issues of common concern. He was seen off by Chief of the General Staff Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-(?Salman) Al Khalifah and a number of senior officers.

UK Official Received by Prime Minister

NC1912123290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Manama, 19 Dec (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has praised the position taken by Britain and the European Community to help implement UN Security Council resolutions to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

This came during a meeting between the Bahraini prime minister and British Minister of State for the Armed

Forces Archibald Hamilton, who is currently visiting Bahrain. The meeting focused on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the international efforts to secure an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government, as well as bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief; Muhammad al-Mutawwa', director of the prime minister's office; and the British ambassador to Bahrain.

Kuwait

Army Obtains Yugoslav M84 Tanks; More To Come

LD1812203990 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1902 GMT 18 Dec 90

[From the 'State of Kuwait Television Message']

[Text] Brothers, within the context of the program for completing the arming of the Kuwaiti Army, a new batch of Yugoslav M84 tanks has joined the Kuwaiti forces at the front. These tanks, which enjoy high combat capability, are renowned for their ability to cross trenches and for their chemical warfare defenses. It is an agile tank with automatic loading, equipped with a 125-mm cannon and two machine guns—one antiaircraft and the other an axial machine gun that fires smoke shells and fierce [as heard] shells at high velocity. Its has several crew members, and so far one whole battalion [katibah] has been trained on them, while another is currently being trained. The capabilities of these two battalions will be consolidated with more M84's and the advanced T-72 tanks. A Kuwaiti officer who commands one of these advanced tanks has said that the Kuwaiti officers have had an intensive training course that has enabled them to competently master the operation of the tanks.

Army Deputy Chief of General Staff Interviewed

PM1712164190 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 14 Dec 90 p 3

[Report on interview with Kuwaiti Army Deputy Chief of General Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah by Nawwaf al-Shamri; place, date not given: "Army Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj. Gen. Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah Tells AL-ANBA': It Will Be a Devastating Battle for Iraq if War Breaks Out"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Excerpts] Army Deputy Chief of General Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah has confirmed that military coordination with the Arab Republic of Egypt is continuing, has not stopped, and is nothing new. He added that his visit to Egypt was within the context of the coordination with the Egyptian Armed Forces and was an essential part of the process of liberation and return.

In an interview with AL-ANBA' he spoke about the Kuwaiti Army rebuilding plan. If we look at the period since the criminal aggression against Kuwait by the Iraqi enemy, he said, we could say that we have set a record in the equipment and preparation of our Armed Forces in terms of size and manpower.

He said the military equipment was promising. Liberation, he said, is the purpose of our equipment and speedy preparation. He added that conscription played a major part in the preparation process as new resources and capabilities have been found in terms of conscripts and reservists. [passage omitted]

Asked about his expectations, as an experienced military man, of the nature of the battle if war broke out in the Gulf because of the Iraqi regime's refusal to withdraw, Maj. Gen. Khalid said: I do not wish to go into battle details but I can say that it would be a devastating battle, particularly for the Iraqi people, whom we regard as our brothers and who have in fact rejected the Iraqi regime's invasion.

The political situation in Iraq, he said, is abnormal and, regrettably, if the Iraqi regime insists on its position then a calamity would befall the Iraqi people, a matter which saddens us just as it saddens the Iraqi people themselves. [passage omitted]

On the dimensions of the role to be played by the Kuwaiti Army in the event of a war to liberate Kuwait, the deputy chief of the General Staff said that the Kuwaiti Army would play a leading role in the battle and would be at the forefront. He said: We, the military, insist on being at the forefront and on sacrificing ourselves for the restoration of Kuwait and its dignity.

He said the claim that the Kuwaitis were not volunteering and were not joining in military training was false. The Kuwaiti youth, he said, are continually volunteering to serve their homeland and view participation in its liberation as a sacred duty. [passage omitted]

Qatar

UK Defense Official Pays 'Brief' Visit to Doha

NC1812093290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0655 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 18 Dec (WAKH)—Archibald Hamilton, UK minister of state for the Armed Forces, arrived in Doha this morning on a brief visit to Qatar. Hamilton was welcomed upon arrival by Staff Colonel Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Abdallah, chief of staff of the Qatari Armed Forces, and Graham Boyce, UK ambassador to Qatar.

The UK minister of state's visit to Qatar is part of a tour he is conducting of the region.

Holds Talks With Officials

NC1812112090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 18 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir

apparent and defense minister, met here today with Archibald Hamilton, UK minister of state for the Armed Forces. The two officials reviewed the situation in the Gulf in general and exchanged views on a number of military matters. They also discussed bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

[Manama WAKH in Arabic at 1105 GMT on 18 December adds: "Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani today met Archibald Hamilton, UK minister of state for the Armed Forces.

["The QATARI NEWS AGENCY says that the two officials discussed the latest developments in the crisis that resulted from the continued Iraqi aggression against and occupation of the State of Kuwait.

["The UK minister of state reiterated his country's firm stand on the Gulf crisis; namely, that UN Security Council resolutions calling for unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimate Kuwaiti Government should be implemented in full.

["The meeting also involved a discussion of ways to bolster the relations of friendship and cooperation between the State of Qatar and Great Britain."]

Amir, Iran's Velayati Discuss Gulf Crisis

LD1612183790 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Qatar, met this morning with Shaykh Khalifa-bin-Hamad al-Thani, the Qatari amir. According to Qatar's news agency, Mr. Velayati submitted a message to the amir from Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], on the crucial and explosive developments in the Persian Gulf, and the IRI's decisive stance vis-a-vis the occupation of Kuwait.

In the meeting in which Qatar's foreign minister and other high-ranking officials were also present, the two sides discussed ways of insuring the region's stability and security, and preventing a repetition of any kind of aggression against other countries.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Appreciates Efforts of 'Some' Leaders

LD1712231590 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired the session of the Council of Ministers at Taybah Palace in al-Madinah today.

Following the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al Sha'ir told SPA [SAUDI PRESS AGENCY]: [passage omitted] The Council of Ministers listened by gracious directive to a summarized report on current events in the area in light of the latest developments.

In this connection, the king briefed the cabinet on his meetings and contacts with various Arab, Islamic, and international leaders during the week. The king also briefed the cabinet on the meeting with the U.S. Senate delegation headed by the Senator George Mitchell, leader of the Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate and representative from the State of Maine.

He renewed his constant affirmation of the clear and declared position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia toward the Gulf crisis and the Kingdom's appreciation of all the sincere efforts of some Arab leaders concerning the current crisis. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN1812183290 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1808 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Dec (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. During the visit he will convey a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Al-Shar' was received at the airport by UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah.

Received by President

NC1812204790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2005 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. It is about the latest developments in the Gulf region in light of the crisis resulting from the continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the efforts to implement the UN and Arab resolutions. These resolutions call for the unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government. The letter also touches on fraternal ties and bilateral cooperation. The message was conveyed by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during a meeting with Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan this evening. UAE Foreign Minister Shaykh Rashid 'Abdallah also attended the meeting.

Saddam: No Visit to U.S. 'To Receive Orders'

JN1812161490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] In an interview with Turkish television to be broadcast tonight, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has ruled out the idea of meetings for peace with the United States if it insists on repeating UN resolutions. The Iraqi president said: We will not go to the United States to receive orders. If U.S. President George Bush is insisting on repeating the UN resolutions, then there will be no reason for us to go, as he put it.

Polish Nationals Leave Baghdad 19 Dec

JN1912125890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1244 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—Pursuant to President Saddam Husayn's order allowing all Iraq's foreign guests to leave or stay in Iraq, as they wish, 149 Polish nationals left Baghdad today for their country on board a special Iraqi plane.

In statements to INA, Iraq's departing guests expressed appreciation for the good treatment and generous hospitality accorded to them by the Iraqi Government and people during their stay. They described President Saddam Husayn's order allowing all the Iraqi people's guests to leave or stay in Iraq, as they wish, as a humanitarian action that reflects Iraq's good intention to establish a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region and to avert war.

U.S. Seizure of Soviet Ship Protested

JN1812132490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—Iraq has strongly protested the American forces' seizure of the Soviet ship Sovietskiy [name as received], which is carrying the personal luggage of Iraqi trainees in the USSR. The ship was seized off the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah and prevented from unloading its cargo at that port.

In a statement to INA today, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the American forces seized the Soviski even though the ship's crew informed the American forces that it was carrying only personal luggage and was not carrying weapons or any other goods of this type.

In his statement, the spokesman stressed that the American forces have continued their provocations and disgraceful acts of harming Iraqi interests and Iraqi individuals without consideration for international law or rules of international dealings. He affirmed that the Iraqi Government retains the full right to defend its legitimate interests and to demand the rights of Iraq and its nationals resulting from any damage caused by the American forces' acts of piracy.

Oppositionists See Saddam 'Amnesty' as Trap

PM1712165790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Rejects Saddam's Offer, Demands Release of Political Prisoners"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iraqi opposition parties have announced their rejection of the "general amnesty" issued by the Revolution Command Council in Iraq, in which it decided to "end the legal actions taken against persons who went abroad after being accused of committing political crimes or those who deserted from military service." Opposition leaderships described the amnesty as merely a trick and a trap designed to lure Iraqis back from abroad.

A spokesman for the "New Ummah Party" said that the reasons that prompted large numbers of Iraqis to flee the country still exist and and that the Iraqi Revolution Command Council headed by Saddam Husayn can prove its good intention by one decision alone—a decision to dissolve itself, form an interim government, and call for a general election in Iraq through which the Iraqi people would choose their representatives to rule the country and run its affairs.

Mr. Nuri al-Amin, member of the Politburo and official in charge of public relations in the Organization for Islamic Action, said that the amnesty decision applies to Army deserters and civilians who left Kuwait after 22 August. He pointed out that over 1,000 Iraqi military personnel have fled Kuwait, and Saddam wants to get them back to Iraq to stand trial or be executed without trial.

Saddam Husayn, Mr. al-Amin said, has already issued a dozen "general amnesty" offers, and the experience of those who returned and gave themselves up proves that Saddam's intention is to get rid of all opponents, namely by killing them. He said that many members of the Iraqi families that returned to Iraq from Iran were killed and the others were deported back to Iran. Concluding his statement, Nuri al-Amin said that "if Saddam is sincere, let him release the political prisoners inside Iraq instead of calling Iraqis abroad to enter his vast prison.

Mr. Asad, a London-based Kurdish leader, said that the announcement of the general amnesty is merely a trap set up by Saddam to seek out opposition leaders. He pointed out that Saddam Husayn's "general amnesty" announcement is evidence of the severity of the political opposition abroad, the threat it is posing to him, and the desire to limit its strength. He added: No one who has left Iraq is going to return there until the reasons that prompted him to leave are eliminated.

He said that over 70 percent of the Iraqis who left the country when the regime allowed citizens to travel abroad did not return, which is why Saddam decided to stop travel abroad, for fear that all Iraqis might leave.

Mr. Sallam Husayn, a former Iraqi student leader, ridiculed the "general amnesty" announcement, saying that

a friend of his had lived in Sweden and returned to Iraq following the announcement of the recent amnesty but had been sentenced to death, and the sentence had been carried out immediately.

Dr. Nadir 'Abbas, official spokesman for the Iraqi Communist Party, said that the general amnesty announcements launched by the Iraqi regime are "general lies," and experience confirms that they are merely "bait" designed to lure some Iraqis and then execute them. He demanded the release of all political and military prisoners and the closure of the prisons and the torture centers, where Iraqis experience all kinds of torture before their execution.

Mr. Ra'd al-Khuzami, an Iraqi Islamic leader, rejected the "general amnesty" offer, pointing out that a decision was issued on 31 August 1980 stipulating execution for those affiliated with the Islamic Call Party, and that decision is still valid. Thus the general amnesty is merely a piece of theater that no one trusts, because anyone who returns will be executed.

Security Council Resolutions 'Do Not Concern Us'

JN1712115990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that the rights of the Arabs and Muslims and their holy places are more important than the interests of despotic America and the existence of its ally the Zionist entity. In today's editorial under the headline "We Do Not Respect the Security Council; Its Resolutions Do Not Concern Us," the paper says: The Security Council is no longer an international institution; it has become a U.S. institution and a department affiliated with the Bush administration, from whom it receives orders. The paper adds: This is how Iraq sees this institution today. Therefore, it neither respects it nor its resolutions. Iraq believes that its resolutions are worth nothing; they are not even worth the ink with which they were written.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: When the Security Council becomes a U.S. tool and when its laws only fulfill the interests of the big powers alone and disregards the interests of most of the world countries and nations, it has no right to claim it is an international body, and its resolutions will not be binding as long as they are issued in accordance with these interests and criteria, rather than in accordance with general, comprehensive, and real criteria that apply to all in the same formula and with the same objectives.

The paper says the Security Council acts and gives the impression of being serious and concerned about international security and peace because the interests of the major powers require this. Meanwhile, it is hesitant in issuing necessary resolutions. It issues weak, poorly worded and ambiguous resolutions when they are related to legitimate human rights of a people. Frankly, this means that whims and wills govern its laws and principles, not the UN Charter or laws.

The paper asks: After all this is it possible to respect such resolutions that were issued in such a way? And why should Iraq, for example, respect unjust and repressive resolutions that come in the form of instructions that are contrary even to the contents of the UN laws and charters? Meanwhile, it is lenient in issuing resolutions against the Zionist entity, which rejects them even before they are officially issued and ignores them when they are issued, even though their wording is weak and shallow.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that over the years approximately 500 resolutions on Arab issues and rights have been shelved at the Security Council. Many of them perished without any voice from those who contributed to issuing them. This continued until Palestine was lost, its people were displaced, and the Zionist authorities annexed more Arab lands in Gaza, the West Bank, the Golan, and Lebanon without any sanctions, imposition of blockade, or military buildup.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: The Zionist entity committed aggression against Iraq, Lebanon, and Tunisia, and threatened the whole Arab nation before the eyes and ears of the so-called international organizations and institutions. The U.S. Administration did whatever it liked in terms of aggression and interference in other countries' internal affairs. The Security Council was no more than a tool to belittle aggression or find covers to peddle it. The paper affirms that Iraq will not accept this; and the U.S. Administration is not a trustee over it. It will not accept the trusteeship of anybody, because Iraq's rights and sanctities are more important than the interests of despotic America and its ally, the Zionist entity.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: In defense of our rights we are fully prepared to liberate our Arab and Islamic sanctities and to wage the biggest battle without any hesitation under the banner of the leader and knight of the gathering of believers, Saddam Husayn. Our confidence in victory is unlimited.

'EC Contribution' Would Help World Peace

JN1912125290 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec.19, INA—THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said here today that the European countries and Japan have often complained about the protectionist measures of the United States and that all that concerns the U.S is its own welfare, which it tries to maintain even at the expense of its NATO partners at times.

A daily editorial here today said the economic conflict between the U.S and Europe on the one hand and between itself and Japan on the other is not a secret. The U.S intervention in the Gulf region is not for the fair eyes of Europe, though the Bush administration has done its best to involve some European powers in the Gulf campaign.

It added that not only the economic independence of Europe appears to be at stake, but also its political independence. In binding themselves so inextricably with the U.S Administration, European states are giving in so submissively to American hegemony.

The daily added that if the EC wants to meet with Iraq's foreign minister only after he sees Mr. Bush, what is the point of the meeting, then? Does the EC wish to echo Bush's views with Mr. 'Aziz? If so, Iraq would better suffice with the views of the U.S President since the EC would have nothing to add to what the big brother in Washington has to say, and both EC and Iraq would be spared the trouble of a pointless effort.

But if the EC really wants to contribute to dialogue and peace from a truely independent position, then a meeting with Mr 'Aziz would have a point, with or without a U.S-Iraqi dialogue, it pointed out.

The Iraqi paper further added that the European community is a major world power on the economic and political level and the group can do a lot for peace and stability in the world of today. Therefore, an EC contribution would be in the interest of world peace and security, particularly as the United States is threatening a devastating war that would harm Europe itself, besides the Middle East region and the world at large.

Iraq wants peace and wants dialogue. The more opportunities for dialogue exist, the greater the chances for peace. This would be in the interest of everbody, everywhere, the daily concluded.

Paper Reacts to Bush's Nuclear Arms 'Pretext'

JN1912120390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—In an editorial today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that if war breaks out, whose costly price will be paid by the Americans, Bush will be responsible.

The paper points out that since the American invasion of the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula, Bush has been fabricating weak pretexts to carry out aggression against Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH says: After all the American president's pretexts have collapsed and after the American people, who reject war, realized that these pretexts are false, Bush has come up with the story of the Iraqi nuclear power and with his false claims that Iraq is about to test its nuclear bomb. This is despite the fact that the International Atomic Enery Agency announced a short time ago that the Iraqi nuclear installations are not used for military purposes.

Concluding its article, the paper stresses that when Bush could not find any pretext to convince the American people of launching aggression against Iraq, he invented his new lie and claimed that Iraq is about to possess nuclear arms despite the fact that a great number of prominent American politicians and anti-war figures have replied to Bush and his pretext, refuted it, and announced that Iraq has no nuclear weapons, and has no plans to possess them.

Bush's Threats, Warnings Will Not Affect State

JN1912094390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that Bush's ridiculous threats and warnings to Iraq to make it relinquish its national and pan-Arab rights will not at all be able to affect its strong will to confront the American forces of aggression.

In an editorial in its today issue, under the headline "Kuwait Is Iraqi and it Is Our Symbol in the Great Battle," the paper says: The statement issued by the joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the [Arab Socialist Ba'th Party] Regional Command the day before yesterday strongly and deeply embodied our faith that Kuwait is part of Iraq and that it is the 19th governorate. This is a fact which our people and Armed Forces are now dealing with as a great achievement, not only because of the return of a usurped land and a people who were lost and then returned to their kinfolk, but also because they have become a slogan for the honorable fighting between faith as a whole and infidelity as a whole, and between economic and social injustice and justice. They have also become a symbol of honor and virtue in the great fighting in the crucial battle.

The paper points out that Bush's delusions of launching a quick war or a blitzkrieg against Iraq will clash with the facts as they are in the field. It expresses confidence that the results of fighting will be a righteous and decisive victory for Iraq which is defending right, dignity, honor, pride, and all that is good for our nation and the faithful grouping.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: Regardless of the number of armies and the quality of their sophisticated military machine, they will be destroyed and burned. The chapters of the battle will also be open in terms of time and area, the heads of the traitors, agents, and unjust dwarfs will be severed, and dear Palestine will be liberated from the Zionist usurpers. By this historical victory, the nation will have had its historic opportunity and completed its awakening. This will enable it to play its pan-Arab and humanitarian role.

Bush's Alliance 'Will Not Stand Long'

JN1812155390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH said today that Bush's aggressive alliance, which includes a minority of warmongers and some petty agents, will not stand long against the might of the grouping of believers, their firm adherence to their

rights, and their great readiness to defeat any despotic force that is aimed against their dignity and future.

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH says: The U.S. President brags about having an international coalition standing with him in favor of wagering on the war option, ignoring the fact that the strong pressures his administration has exerted, in addition to its bribes and blackmail, have helped to make some sides respond to the hostile American aims.

The paper says that analyses by several observers note a primitiveness and lack of objectivity in Bush's claims, saying that Washington is almost standing alone in creating tension in the Arabian Gulf, and that had the U.S. Administration not been infected with war fever, nothing of what is taking place would have happened. Consequently, the fragile coalition the U.S. President spoke about lacks credibility and actual weight.

The paper says: The most prominent and realistic refutation of Bush's claims was by former National Security Adviser Brzezinski who said frankly that the U.S. Administration is proceeding in the wrong direction and that its calls for war will cost America and the region a great deal. It notes Brzezinski's statements to a U.S. television network in which he said that there are three parties and a half that support the military option, namely Britain, Israel, the Croesuses [Kuwaitis], and the Saudi regime, which he considered half a government because of deep splits [within the Saudi Government].

AL-THAWRAH says: Without giving the details of the reasons stated by Brzezinski, the real state of affairs proves that Bush is at an impasse and that he is confused and forced into lies and evasions to show that some parties support his evil stands, and to peddle the cliche on coalition, which he repeats whether there is an occasion or not.

Paper Insists on Dialogue Without 'Preconditions'

JN1812143490 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 18, INA—The Iraqi English language daily 'THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER' said today that all too simply the U.S. President says the aim of the talks is to relay the message to Iraq. "This Security Council has given you January 15" as if Iraq had not heard the news of the U.S.-imposed decision of the Security Council. In fact, everybody had known the decision would be passed by the Council, which has turned into a U.S. instrument.

Why bother, Mr. Bush? There was no need for the talks in the first place if the intention was to pass a message. But, the aim of Bush's announcement was very clear after all.

Still, Iraq welcomed the news but cautioned against the declared objective of talks, or rather the war "message." You may give your opponent the benefit of the doubt for a glimpse of hope that something genuine might come out.

It seemed that the U.S. Administration could not hide its pretension for too long and so it decided to set its own dates for the talks. It is quite understandable even acceptable that the U.S. should decide the date of a foreign officials' meeting with its President. But it is totally unaceptable that the U.S. should dictate the date for a meeting of one of its officials with the president of another sovereign state. No sovereign state with self-respect could ever accept these terms.

Iraq has told the U.S. quite clearly that Iraq decides the date when its president could meet with a foreign official. Not other country, including the United States, can decide the dates for Iraqi leader's meetings.

If it is arrogance that makes the U.S. Administration act in such a way, this behaviour will lead the U.S. to nowhere. If it is another ploy by the U.S. President, the stage-setting is all too naive.

And if the U.S. wants to persist in its aggressive behaviour and belligerent policy, the outcome will boomerang back on the culprit. The Bush administration should learn new tricks. Peace can only be achieved through sincere dialogue and goodwill, not through threatening and blackmail.

The message that Iraq wants the U.S. and others to understand is: No preconditions. Dialogue can only be conducted on normal terms of mutual respect and undestanding by the two parties as equals by human standards, not by the terms set by Mr. Bush.

Battle With U.S. Result of 'Civilized Awakening'

JN1712193690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has said that the battle against the United States and Zionism is not the outcome of current circumstances, but was triggered when the civilized awakening in Iraq began to develop.

The remarks were made when 'Izzat Ibrahim chaired an expanded meeting of the Agricultural Committee and the Civil Defense Committee in the al-Ta'mim Governorate.

The RCC vice chairman added that the struggling masses of any nation cannot attain their noble objectives without invoking a historical law, a unique example, or a capable, wise leadership. We are today assured—thank God—by the presence of historic leadership in leader President Saddam Husayn, he said.

He went on to say that our future will be bright, with God's help, with the resolve of the resourceful leader, Saddam Husayn, and with the strength of the sons of our struggling people. He noted that great victory in the crucial battle will open a new door to the Arab nation to prove its status, and to regain all its eternal heritage, rich history, and time-honored glory.

'Izzat Ibrahim, the RCC vice chairman, added that victory will belong to our Iraqi people, and that history will proudly note this historic, victorious Iraqi stand in all its significance and dimensions. He added that this battle will be cherished in the hearts and consciences of every Arab generation.

The RCC vice chairman said that every Iraqi citizen has a combat position and a distinguished role in the great confrontation we are experiencing at this important historical phase in the life of Iraq and the Arab nation. Every individual of the sons of the people has a role in the glorious rising of great Iraq, he said.

'Izzat Ibrahim asked the members of the Agricultural Committee and the Civil Defense to exert further efforts and to follow up everything thoroughly. He asked them to rise to the level of national responsibility demanded by the current circumstances in Iraq so as to foil the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq, and to defeat the imperialist onslaught led by the United States, its allies, and agents.

Baghdad 'Ready' for Military Confrontation

JN1512122190 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 15, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily said that the enemies had no alternative other than heeding the voice of reason and sitting at the negotiating table to avert war and destruction, otherwise, it would be too late.

In its editorial for today, the daily said that Iraq has chosen a path, from which it will never retreat and that it is ready to sacrifice life and property in defence of the ideal principles and values it has adopted. It stressed that Iraq's decision to restore its usurped historical right could never be reversed.

The daily added that if the Americans, Zionists and those calling for destroying Iraq's capabilities who imagined by conspiring against Iraq, they could realize their ambitions, they would only commit by that a big mistake that would cost them what they had not even predicted.

It pointed out that so long as the battle had taken the form of a challenge, Iraq had become much determined to make it a great battle that would bring the end the Iraqis and all honorable Arabs had chosen, an end that would draw a new path for the Arab nation, other than the one it had long pursued.

The daily made it clear that Iraq's adherence to the Arab rights, first and foremost the right to Palestine, is growing day by day, despite the ferocity of the hostile attack. It stressed that Iraq's principles could never accept any form of foreign domination over Arab oil.

Another Iraqi daily, AL-JUMHURIYAH, today warned that Iraq would rip the enemies' bodies apart and dash their expansionist sick dreams of imposing their mandate on the Arab nation.

The daily added that the conspiracy against Iraq had not been conceived on the spur of the moment, for it started long before Aug. 2 last and grew fiercer when Iraq became master of its own fate and began to adopt firm and serious stances towards the Palestinian issues and the Arab people following July 17-30 Revolution.

It confirmed that Iraq's military capabilities and elements of strength will remain intact, because they represent the fruit of the Iraqis long and hard struggle, and not a gift from someone, and because they do not belong to Iraq alone, but rather, to all holy warriors and believers who are eager to fight the great battle for liberation of all Arabs and Moslems' sanctities in Mecca, al-Madinah and al-Quds.

The daily went on saying that those obsessed with illusions and dreams of control and expansionism should clearly realize that the Arab's oil is for the Arabs, and so are the riches of their land and that Palestine is for the Palestinians alone.

It strongly warned the gathering of evil that whoever refuses to abandon his ambitions and arrogance will find out that the believers are quite ready for the military confrontation, once it takes place.

Paper Says Saudi Arabia To Be 'Battlefield'

JN1812151190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0718 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that the land of sanctities in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] will be the battlefield.

In an editorial today, the paper says: The interests of America and the Zionists everywhere will be targets for destruction and crushing, the feet of the believers will kick the heads of those who encroach on the rights of the Iraqis, Arabs, and free people, and the oppressors will be defeated.

The paper stresses that the glorious 2 August, the day of the call, highlighted the clear division between the two distinct trenches; the trench of faith and that of evil and aggression.

The paper says: The day of the call was a great historical act in the life of the Arab nation in the contemporary age. This move has consolidated the position of the good, free, and faithful grouping of Iraqis, Arabs, Muslims, and advocates of human rights everywhere; and at the same time it has exposed the position of the evildoers grouping of imperialists, Zionists, their allies, the small agents, and the corrupt ones who plundered the nation's wealth and lost its rights for nothing.

The paper adds: This is how we understand the day of the call, and this is how it rests in our consciences. We fully believe that the end of the symbols of corruption, plundering, and plotting, and the restoration of a dear part [Kuwait]—which the colonialist circles wanted to be a base for plots and pressure against Iraq, with all that awakening

and developing Iraq represents as a base for Arab liberation—constitute a page in the history of the march toward the aspired liberation of all sanctities and rights.

The paper adds: If the day of the call has released all the potential of the faithful grouping and paved the way for it to respond to the sacred duty to fight the great fight in the crucial battle, then this duty demands teaching the betrayer of the two holy mosques, Fahd, and the traitor of the Arab nation, the feeble-minded Husni, a historical lesson—a lesson that will purge the Arab nation after them generation after another, and allow the Arab nation to live in peace and security and assured about its life and future, while remembering the fate of Husni and Fahd. Moreover, the crucial battle will correct the mistakes—great mistakes—of two centuries of colonialist partitioning [of the Arab nation]; the 19th and the 20th centuries. The time is now ripe to correct these mistakes by ending the roles of the dwarfs, traitors, and the agents of the covetous colonialists. It is also high time that oil returned to its people and true owners.

It adds: Let the believers and the poor prepare to possess their wealth, especially since it is God's gift to them and one of their rights, it is not wealth to serve America, its ambitions and plans to impose hegemony over the world. Regarding the Zionist enemy's punishment, it knows it full well. It also knows what kind of severe punishment awaits it after continuing its usurpation of the rights of Arabs and the sons of the Palestinian people, perpetrating the most heinous crimes against Palestine's children, women, and old people, and after playing havoc and spreading injustice, threats, and aggressions against the Arabs and their holy places. The grouping of evildoers must understand well that we are fighting the crucial battle with the strength of Arab revolutions throughout 100 years, and with the power of all the mujahidin in defense of the rights of all oppressed peoples. This is the decisive historical opportunity when the free peoples will inflict the greatest punishment on America, its hostility and arrogance.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: The Iraq of the faithful elite, the Iraq of the leader of the faithful grouping, Saddam Husayn, is strongly and firmly confident in victory as the inevitable result of the patience and sacrifices of the patient people. Only then will the new world system be established based on justice, mutual respect, and equity—a system in which the Arabs and the Muslims will have their true position, role, wealth, pride, and stability.

Palestine Question 'in the Forefront' of Issues

JN1712130390 Baghdad INA in English 1125 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 17, INA—An Iraqi newspaper stressed that the Palestine issue should be in the forefront of any projects for peace in the Middle East since it is the central Arab and Islamic issue.

AL-'IRAQ newspaper said that the legitimacy understood by all peace loving peoples in the world is represented in punishing the Zionist aggressors who had usurped the Arab territories, desecrated Arab sanctities and carry on the daily killing of the Palestinian people.

It said that those meeting in a shameful manner under the umbrella of the Security Council to adopt series of unjust resolutions against Iraq should understand before it is too late and that this issue must be in the forefront of all peace projects in the region.

Salih Says U.S. Trying To Deny Arabs Progress

JN1812204090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has received a Polish peace delegation under Piotr Sikorski [name as received]. The delegation is taking part in a world peace and friendship camp currently being held in Baghdad. The assembly speaker expressed the Iraqi people's appreciation for the good efforts of peace-loving organizations, societies, and figures seeking to consolidate cooperation and brotherhood among peoples and to avert the dangers to mankind resulting from the war merchants' attempts to market their spiteful merchandise. He explained that the solution to the region's problems lies in the departure of the foreign forces that have invaded the Arab territory, the removal of the filth that has desecrated the Arab Islamic sanctities in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], and a just and comprehensive resolution of the Palestine question.

The National Assembly speaker said that the U.S. Administration's aggressive campaign against the Iraqi people is an attempt to deny them the opportunities of progress in all fields and to impose hegemony on the Arab resources, particularly oil, in order to exercise pressure, as it is now doing through the monopoly of food and the imposition of policies on other peoples.

Piotr Sikorski expressed solidarity with the Iraqi people in their quest to establish a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East and the world. He said that all peace-loving forces in the world agree unanimously that this noble objective is possible through the implementation of leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, which sets out the principles of a genuine and comprehensive peace.

Egyptian Commander Said To Resign Over Policy

JN1612204090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—Arrivals from Cairo have stated that relieving Major General Ahmad 'Ali Bilal of his post as commander of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia took place at his own request and was not an official decision. The newspaper AL- QADISIYAH, newspaper of the Defense Ministry, quoted these arrivals as saying that differences with Maj. Gen. Bilal surfaced

after the official Egyptian position was established by Husni Mubarak's announcement that he was ready to participate in the foreign forces opposing Iraq.

They added that Maj. Gen. Bilal informed Husni during the latter's recent meeting with senior officers that he wanted to resign following the shift that occurred in Egyptian position in contradiction with the Egyptian policy and because he did not want to fight yesterday's comrades, the Iraqi brothers.

The arrivals also said that the Egyptian Government preferred to announce that Maj. Gen. Bilal had retired rather than resigned in order to conceal his position from the Army and the Egyptian street.

They said that relieving Maj. Gen. Bilal and Lieutenant General Mustafa al-Shadhili, commander of the Air Defense Forces, caused grumbling on a large scale among officers and soldiers of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

They also drew attention to the fear of the ruling regime that this grumbling would interact with the fury of the Egyptian people and would threaten Husni's future presidency.

World Urged To Stop Temple Mount Faithful Plan

JN1612182290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1728 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—The National Assembly has urged all peoples and countries to stop the new Zionist crime that the Zionist entity is planning to carry out in the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque.

In a statement issued today, the National Assembly said that the Zionist crime of planning to remove the holy shrines and allow the extremist Jewish group called the Temple Mount Faithful to place the corner stone tomorrow for the so-called Temple of Solomon constitute a flagrant violation of human rights, man's dignity and freedom, and all international norms and laws. It is also a deep insult to the feelings of all religious sects, especially Muslims and Christians all over the world.

The statement says that the latest Zionist crime, which conflicts with the Hague agreement of 1954 on protecting cultural property in case of an armed dispute, will endanger the region's security and stability.

The statement adds that the Iraqi National Assembly, which holds the Arab nation and its governments responsible for stopping this crime, calls for a unified and decisive Arab position to stop Arab deterioration and to bring pressure to find a solution to the Palestine question and all the region's issues. In its statement, the National Assembly also appealed to all good and peace-loving forces in the world to continue support for the Palestinian people to enable them to continue their struggle against racism and Zionist its plans to destroy and wipe them out.

Saddam Military 'Campaign' Against Kurds Deplored

PM1812115990 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 14 Dec 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Kurdistan Front Warns of Consequences of Regime's Military Campaign Against its Fighters"—formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Text] Damascus—The Iraqi Kurdistan Front has held the Iraqi regime responsible for the consequences of sending its forces to attack Kurdish and democratic Peshmerga units in the extreme north of Iraqi Kurdistan.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned that the Iraqi forces' attack on the armed opposition strongholds in Kurdistan began on 1 December and continued for four days and that the attack was carried out by the 47th division, which used long-range heavy artillery and helicopters but failed to inflict any casualties in the ranks of the [Kurdish] fighters.

A spokesman for the front said Wednesday that from time to time Iraqi armed units launch attacks on the front's supporters, who only resort to legitimate self-defense when such attacks occur.

The spokesman warned Saddam Husayn against "deploying the army against the people" and called for "the creation of new conditions and circumstances that would help the Iraqi people get rid of dictatorship and despotism and establish democracy and uphold human rights in Iraq."

Kurdish Leader on Opposition to Saddam Regime

PM1812113590 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12-18 Dec 90 pp 14-17

["Part I of II" of interview with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Najm 'Abd-al-Karim in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Karim] How frankly can we talk?

[Talabani] Very frankly, because I have never concealed my policy or dealings with events. I have never said anything in which I do not believe. Assessments may have changed as a result of a change in conditions, but that is a natural thing. I am against the present Iraqi regime, but if it is replaced by a democratic regime, I would support that regime.

['Abd-al-Karim] Even if Saddam Husayn becomes democratic?

[Talabani] Saddam Husayn can never be progressive or democratic. At one point we worked with the Ba'thist tendency before he assumed power. But after he assumed power and became a dictator, we decided to oppose him, and this cannot be registered as a change in Jalal Talabani's position, but, rather, a change in the other tendency's position. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Karim] You deal with whatever realizes gains for your cause. Where does Saddam Husayn fit in that policy, especially as you dealt with Saddam in different periods and there were meetings, talks, and agreement?

[Talabani] In view of what I said, Saddam tops the list of the Kurdish people's enemies.

['Abd-al-Karim] Enemy No. 1?

[Talabani] He tops the list of the Kurdish people's enemies by virtue of his policy represented by the annihilation war and based on denying the Kurdish people their right to their homeland, Kurdistan. And also by virtue of his policy designed to evacuate that people. There are also others who are standing against the Kurdish people, which is why I believe that the Kurdish liberation movement is struggling for real and long-term objective that can be realized.

The real objective in Iraq is to topple the dictatorial regime, establish a democratic regime, apply the principles of human rights, and realize the Kurdish people's right to self-determination. And this does not mean that we abandon dreams: Dreams are the guiding star in the human march.

['Abd-al-Karim] You returned recently after participating in the national alliance conference held in Damascus and the Iraqi opposition's preparations for the awaited alternative. Did that gathering match the level of events?

[Talabani] We believe that the Iraqi opposition is currently proceeding firmly toward alliance and common action. The Iraqi opposition succeeded in agreeing to a basic program and a political statement, thus becoming the sought and desired alternative against the present dictatorial regime in Iraq for the following reasons:

First, the Iraqi opposition represents all groups of the Iraqi people: Arabs, Kurds, Sunnah, Shi'ah, secularists, Islamists, leftists, liberals, nationalists, communists, and other groups of the Iraqi people;

Second, because the Iraqi opposition represents most of the Iraqi people and is deep-rooted in Iraqi society;

Third, because by its establishing the patriotic and democratic alternative to replace the dictatorial regime, the Iraqi opposition is rescuing Iraq and the Arab nation from the inevitable disaster to which the ruling Iraqi dictator, Saddam Husayn, is leading it. Agreeing and announcing the statement is a starting point for the Iraqi opposition's common action. The Iraqi opposition will start to form delegations to dispatch to the Arab, European, and American countries to seek recognition of the Iraqi opposition as an alternative. The opposition believes that it is incumbent on it to demand that the president resign and relinquish power, leaving the opposition to form an interim coalition government and hold free elections for a constituent assembly that would draw up a permanent constitution and laws and determine and appoint the Iraqi regime.

The resignation demand is perhaps the starting point for rescuing Iraq from the war into which Saddam Husayn is driving it. Thus the opposition—on the grounds that it represents the majority of the Iraqi people—is entitled to assume power and to be the natural alternative, which is a patriotic, democratic, and people's alternative that is not rejected from outside. It is derived from within Iraqi society. Saddam Husayn's resignation and handing over of power to the Iraqi opposition would rescue the Iraqi people from war and would spare the region the dangers resulting from the invasion and usurpation of Kuwait and its annexation by force to the dictatorial Iraqi regime.

['Abd-al-Karim] For Saddam Husayn to hand over power to the opposition is purely a romantic notion, and I do not believe that he will tell you: All right, go ahead. There will be many ways of rejection, and that might lead to physical liquidations.

[Talabani] Our movement is a civilized movement. And in this age governments resign when they fail and lead their countries to tragic conditions. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Karim] What would Jalal Talabani say about Kurdish unity in the light of the new developments on the scene?

[Talabani] Kurdish unity is one of the Kurdish nation's rights, but that right is still unattainable in view of international circumstances.

['Abd-al-Karim] In view of your meeting in Damascus, how do you view Kurdish national unity in cooperation with the Arab forces in Iraq?

[Talabani] Iraqi national unity is a historic necessity and a pressing need. Iraqi national unity is based on two wings: a Kurdish wing and an Arab wing. And without the realization of unity and common action the Iraq dictatorial regime cannot be defeated. This is why the Kurdish liberation movement played an effective and principaled role in unifying views and establishing the Iraqi opposition's unity at the Damascus talks. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Karim] Two years ago you visited the United States and your visit provoked an uproar and caused the postponement of the Iraqi foreign minister's visit to Washington, but a few weeks ago the red carpet was rolled out for you at Paris Airport—two incidents which have a meaning. On what basis do you cooperate with the international community and what have you achieved?

[Talabani] The relationship with these states has not reached the cooperation stage. Over recent years the Kurdish movement has realized the need for working and making contacts with all influential states, thus adding diplomatic struggle to the armed, intellectual, informational, and organizational struggle, that is after a long period during which it was denied a role in international relations. This is why it knocked on the doors of Paris, Moscow, London, Berlin, and Washington. In Washington we presented the Kurdish issue to U.S.

circles and discussed an important question, namely that U.S. aid to Iraq helped the government to launch the annihilation war against the Kurdish people. The U.S. Government supplied Iraq with the agricultural items which had been produced in Kurdistan and were used to meet Iraq's needs like wheat, barley, rice, fruit, and tobacco. Thus the government dispensed with Kurdistan's produce and was able to destroy the countryside and the Kurdish economy. So its was essential to explain that point to the U.S. Administration.

['Abd-al-Karim] Was that destruction intended?

[Talabani] I believe that the Iraqi regime intended it and the U.S. Government was unaware of it. When we explained that subject to the U.S. Administration it ignored that point. The other objective of the visit was to determine the reasons for U.S. policy's hostility toward the Kurdish people, but they were surprised by that. We told them: You are helping the Turkish Government against the Kurdish people. And you helped the shah of Iran against us and are helping the Iraqi regime too against us. So they said that this is international relations and tried to tell us that they side with Kurdish rights within the Iraqi state. But they very much defended the Iraqi regime and very much defended Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. They said that business has to be done with him because he is an important man for U.S. policy in the region. He is confronting the Iranian advance and safeguarding the West's vital interests in the region. So they emphasized to us that business should be done with him and that we should negotiate with him to find a political solution to the Kurdish issue. [passage omitted]

Fahd Said to Meet Israel's Weizman, Dayan in 1978

JN0712121190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0931 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that Saudi ruler Fahd has strong connections with officials and leaders of the Zionist entity that date back even before al-Sadat's treacherous visit to occupied Jerusalem.

In a documentary report, the paper cites a report published a few years ago by the French paper LE MATIN, which says that General 'Ezra Weizman, Israel's [then] defense minister, met secretly in early July 1978 with Prince Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, [then] crown prince and first deputy prime minister. The French paper cited diplomatic sources as saying that Fahd met with Weizman in a palace owned by the Saudi prince in the Spanish resort of Marbella. In exposing the Al-Saud conspiracy, the French paper said that Zbigniew Brezhinsky, U.S. President Jimmy Carter's national security adviser, sent an envoy to attend Fahd-Weizman meeting. LE MATIN also confirmed that Fahd met with General Moshe Dayan, Israel's foreign minister, a few weeks before he met with Weizman.

AL-QADISIYAH concludes its documentary report by saying: After all this, no Arab citizen will be surprised by what Fahd has done, or is still doing.

Soviet Official Meets With Minister on Oil

JN1812185190 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, met today with a Soviet delegation currently visiting the country under Vladimir Mordvinov, first under secretary in the Soviet Foreign Trade Ministry and deputy chairman of the Soviet side to the Iraqi-Soviet joint committee. During the meeting, the two sides discussed joint activity in the industry and oil sectors.

The minister reaffirmed Iraq's eagerness to promote its relations in the industrial and oil fields with the Soviet Union. He said that Iraq—as it has said before—allows the [Soviet] experts working in the country to leave if they so wish irrespective of the expiry date of their contracts. The minister reviewed Iraq's peace efforts, saying that Iraq neither seeks war nor wishes it to take place, and that Iraq harbors no aggressive intentions against anybody. However, he said, it was the Americans who came to the region and assembled armies. And if a war erupts, he warned, the Iraqis will reverse all the miscalculations and our border will be a graveyard for the aggressors.

Mordvinov expressed his interest in promoting bilateral relations, noting that the departure of some Soviet experts on a temporary basis will not affect the level of bilateral relations.

Ramadan Confers With World Peace Group

JN1812171690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1537 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Mrs. Pafani Geoffana, chairwoman of the World Association for Peace and Freedom-Italy Branch, and De Santi Massio, chairman of the World Committee on Education for Peace [names and titles as received].

The first deputy prime minister said that the return of the usurped part, Kuwait, to its motherland, Iraq, and liberation of this part from the colonialists' agents is the beginning of resolving all Arab problems, restoring the legitimate rights of the Arabs to their lands and resources, and liberating the Arabs from all forms of hegemony, occupation, and plundering so that a full and comprehensive peace can be achieved in the Arab region.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that Bush and his allies will be confronted by a comprehensive Arab stance, because the Arabs in this new era are in full possession of their will and are determined to liberate their land. He said those Arabs differ from pseudo-Arabs, such as Husni, the meek, and

Fahd, the agent, and others with whom Bush deals and imagines that honorable Arabs are like those cowards.

He said that a genuine peace cannot be achieved by occupying Arab territories or gathering fleets, but through effective and comprehensive dialogue.

The World Association for Peace delegation expressed regret that the United Nations has been turned into a forum for expressing the U.S. will. The delegation also regretted the UN Security Council's adoption of resolutions that have been issued by the U.S. Administration. The delegation said that the UN Security Council is disgraced because it has become an institution to implement the United States' desires that aim to drag the world into a global war whose disasters and destruction will afflict all peoples.

Members of the delegation were unanimous that the death of over 2,000 Iraqi children caused by the blocking of food, milk, and medicines is considered the crime of the age. They added that human rights advocates—if they are sincere in their claims—should provide evidence to defend the rights of the children and people of Iraq, which have been usurped by the Americans under the canopy of the UN Security Council, and to defend the Palestinian people's rights, which have been usurped by the Zionists for 43 years.

They said that facts prove that the enemies of humanity have raised false slogans to kill people and usurp their will, wealth, and rights on the pretext of defending human rights.

Pakistani Islamic Delegation Arrives on Visit

JN1612104690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—A delegation from Iraq's solidarity society in Pakistan arrived this evening in Baghdad on a several day visit.

Mr. Qadir Khamush, the head of the delegation and secretary general of the Hadith Ulema Society, [name and title as received] said upon arrival that the Pakistani people support the Iraqi people in their confrontation of the imperialist and Zionist aggression until the clear victory is achieved, God willing. He pointed out that 50,000 Pakistani citizens have volunteered for the jihad to support Iraq in its just war against the forces of infidelity and tyranny.

The delegation comprises representatives from various political and Islamic organizations and societies in Pakistan.

Meets With Ramadan

JN1612172790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received a delegation today representing the Pakistani society in solidarity with Iraq, now visiting Iraq.

Taha Yasin Ramadan emphasized that the kind of peace sought by Iraq is a far cry from the capitulation sought by the U.S. Administration, its allies, and slaves.

He said Iraq insists on a comprehensive approach to the problems of the region, and on respect for the rights of the Palestinian people.

The Pakistani delegation said that all Muslims stand alongide His Excellency President Saddam Husayn as he seeks the liberation of Islamic sanctities. They noted that tens of thousands of Pakistanis have volunteered for jihad behind the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, who is championing the cause of the dignity and sanctities of Muslims.

The Pakistani delegation includes representatives of various Islamic and political organizations in the country.

Libyan-Based Islamic Delegation Arrives

JN1412142890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1328 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA)—Muhammad Ahmad al-Sharif, secretary general of the World Popular Islamic Leadership, and his delegation arrived in Baghdad today on a visit of several days.

In a statement to INA, Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Sharif said his visit to Iraq complies with the resolutions of the World Popular Islamic Leadership's extraordinary conference recently held in Libya, site of the Leadership's permanent headquarters, with the aim of trying to avert the possibilities of war in the Gulf.

He added that the delegation seeks to contact leaders of the Arab and Islamic worlds to make peace possible and to raise the Arab and Islamic masses' readiness and understanding of the situation and to prepare for all possibilities.

Muhammad Ahmad al-Sharif again denounced the imperialist-Zionist invasion of the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], the threats to Arab security, and the desecration of the Muslims' sacred places. He stressed the need to maintain the Arab nation's strength and preparedness to face the frustrated enemies with a strong belief and the unity of Arab-Islamic ranks.

Polish Official Urges Withdrawal of Western Troops

JN1612131690 Baghdad INA in English 1140 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 16, INA—Mr. Peter Zikareski [name as received] head of the Polish peace delegation stressed that the true peace could not be realised under presence of the Nato-American troops in the region which threaten security and stability.

In a statement to INA, he called for withdrawing all foreign troops from the Arab Gulf region with the aim of preparing the circumstances and atmospheres necessary for settling all region's problems by negotiation and serious dialogue among the Arabs themselves and to spare the region and the world the calamities of war.

Minister Receives German Company President

JN1812100190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah today received Peter Jungen, president of the German company Strabach. [names and title as received]

During the meeting, they discussed means to bolster cooperation between the company and the Ministry. Mr. Peter Jungen said his company is ready to contribute toward the execution of future projects carried out by the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Islamic Delegation Departs after Visit

JN1612104990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—Muhammad Ahmad al-Sharif, secretary general of the World Popular Islamic Leadership, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad this morning at the conclusion of a three-day visit to Iraq.

During his visit, al-Sharif held meetings with a number of Iraqi officials on the U.S.-Zionist threats to Arab and Islamic holy places and ways of confronting them to safeguard the sanctity of holy sites.

Italian, Finnish Medicine Shipments Arrive 14 Dec

JN1612075590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 15 Dec 90

[All names as received]

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad al-Nuri, chairman of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, today received Ben Jabbar Ben Abdelkarim, head of the Algerian Red Crescent Society; Istinkoni, head of the Italian Red Cross Committee; and Dr. Kari Panomy, head of the Finnish Red Cross Society.

During the meeting, they discussed the aspects of cooperation between the three organizations on the one hand and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society on the other, and ways to enhance this cooperation.

Two consignments of medicines donated as a gift to the Iraqi people arrived yesterday. The first consignment was donated by the Italian Red Cross Committee, while the second one was donated by the Finnish Red Cross Society. The first consignment consisted of 22 tonnes, whereas the second consigment consisted of one tonne and 486 kilograms of medicines, medical equipment and devices, and infant vaccines.

Medicine Donated by UNICEF Arrive in Country

JN1412195290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA)—An Iraqi cargo jet arrived in Baghdad from Copenhagen this evening carrying 28 metric tons of medicine and children's vaccines donated by UNICEF.

The UNICEF representative in Baghdad told INA that the shipment includes children's vaccines and various types of medicine worth $0.5 million. Representatives from UNICEF and the Iraqi Health Ministry were at the airport to receive the shipment.

Ramadan on Bahraini Prime Minister's Statements

JN1412151390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA)—First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan has expressed regret over the allegations made by Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman to the newspaper GULF NEWS in which he said that "Iraq was planning to take the same position [as it did in Kuwait] against Saudi Arabia's eastern region, Bahrain, Qatar, and probably the United Arab Emirates." The first deputy prime minister said: It is regrettable to hear such statements from a person whom we respect and whose views we also respect.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added: It is also regrettable that fraternal Bahrain is falling in the same trap of misleading information that Husni and the Americans fabricated for the betrayer of the two holy mosques which put him in a great predicament.

The first deputy prime minister said: We hope the Gulf Arabs will seek the truth before making statements. We stress that what happened in the Governorate of Kuwait and to the evil al-Sabah family cannot be taken as a standard for any Gulf state, regardless of the wrongs committed by its rulers. Those who insist on taking a hostile stance will be punished, and God, their people, and the masses of the nation will face the evildoers.

Peace Activists To Set Up 'Human Shield'

JN1812143990 Baghdad INA in English 1352 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 18, INA—One hundred multinationality persons arrive in Baghdad in the coming few days as a first batch of the Gulf peace camp group.

An official source in the Organisation of Friendship, Peace and Solidarity in Iraq has said that the group will constitute a human shield aiming at averting war and includes nationals from different nationalities who have

devoted themselves to the issue of peace and performed many activities in different parts of the world for its realisation.

He has added that the group calls for abandoning violence and confirms that the problems however small or big, they were are not to be solved by war which would lead only to death and destruction. The best way of resolving these problems is dialogue and negotiations, the source has added.

He has pointed out that this group will be followed by other batches comprising citizens from America, Japan and Europe some of whom have been compelled to participate in a number of wars particularly the war in Vietnam.

The source has also said that the Gulf peace group will encamp in the border area of Iraq with Najd and Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] that is being exposed to the American foreign invasion. Location of the camp has been chosen and Iraq is a coordinating party of it.

He has further added that the Friendship, Peace and Solidarity Organisation has received numerous letters from international and regional organisations and unions offering to take part in this human shield to prevent war and the organisation in its turn has referred the applications to the administration responsible for the camp to decide them.

Islamic Popular Conference To Open 9 Jan

JN1712172890 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 17 INA—An international popular islamic conference for solidarity with Iraq against the Zionist American aggression opens in Baghdad on 9th January [1991].

The conference to be attended by delegations from several Arab and Islamic countries would discuss current conditions in the region and the desecration of Arab sacred lands in Saudia [as received] by the American and Atlantic troops

During the same month, another big workers conference will also begin in Baghdad in support of Iraq and defining means of replying to the American probable aggression.

New Group of 'Arab Combatants' Begin Training

JN1512160290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—A new group of Arab combatants headed for training camps this morning to take part in the struggle to defend great Iraq and the glorious Arab nation.

In a speech delivered during a meeting with the Arab combatants, Badr-al-Din Muddaththir, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, conveyed to them the greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn because they would be defending the nation's honor and dignity and helping repulse the imperialist- Zionist onslaught against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Muddaththir added that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August epitomized the best and just solution to all regional problems, headed by the Palestine question, the central Arab concern. [passage omitted]

Government Mobilizes Civil Defense Efforts

Directives Issued

JN1412130490 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Dec 90 p 4

["Statement" issued by the Civil Defense Directorate; date not specified]

[Text] In accordance with Paragraph 10 of the Shelters Statement No. 1 for 1981 issued by the interior minister, the supreme commander of the Civil Defense in the Republic of Iraq, according to the amended Civil Defense Law No. 64 for 1978, the following decisions have been made:

1. All owners of residential and commercial buildings should clear the private shelters in their buildings and provide them with all the requirements needed to shelter the citizens. A special sign according to the specified measurement (40x40 cm) should be posted in a prominent position on the street opposite the building so that citizens can identify the shelters easily.

2. Violators of the regulations of this statement shall be punished in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Article 17 of the amended Civil Defense Law No. 64 for 1978.

Meeting on Measures

JN1612084790 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Dec 90 p 4

[By Qasim al-Mi'mar]

[Excerpts] In accordance with leader President Saddam Husayn's order to hold meetings with government committees and party organizations to inform citizens of the civil defense role and tasks in the current phase, the need for alertness and caution to confront the Zionist-U.S. aggression and its allies, and the dangers of disasters and means to protect the society and its possessions, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Duri, director of Public Security, has met with media correspondents in the presence of the director of Civil Defense and other officials.

At the beginning of the meeting, the director of Public Security welcomed the attendants and presented a clear picture of the importance of the role played by the security organs in coordination and cooperation with party organizations, citizens, and competent organs, to

ensure the implemeatation of the central orders and directives with regard to civil defense and means to confront nuclear, bacteriological, and chemical attacks when they occur and protect oneself against their effects, in addition to the individuals' role in protection and minimizing the possible harm, losses, and dangers. [passage omitted]

The director of Public Security added that he has prepared a mobilization and educational program that will be presented to the citizens through radio, television, and newspapers in accordance with a set timetable to clarify the dangers of a nuclear, bacteriological, and chemical attack, means to protect oneself against its dangers on the individual and family levels, implement the directives of the intrinsic civil defense units, and proceed to the geographical areas specified by party organizations. He also said that there would be evacuation exercises.

He then urged the mass media to expand its educational campaigns by developing programs, conducting investigations and interviews, issuing and publishing stickers, using the method of guidance and warning so that the citizen can absorb these duties. At the same time, there will be training courses in cooperation with the Civil Defense Directorate, departments, and organizations in order to secure first aid and protection from a mass destruction war.

During the meeting, the Civil Defense director gave a brief overview of the role of the directorate in cooperating with citizens to promote civil defense duties through the spirit of compliance with the instructions and issuing of pamphlets and clarifications. He also reviewed the role of the directorate in preparing training courses on civil defense duties, first aid, firefighting, evacuation, measures to be taken in cases of emergency, and briefing the citizens on the importance of these exercises both in times of peace and war. [passage omitted]

Importance Examined

JN1412100490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0842 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has said the continued civil defense exercises and training and educational courses throughout Iraq are aimed at aborting any aggression against steadfast Iraq.

In an article headlined "A National Task To Confront Aggression" published in today's issue, AL-THAWRAH adds that the importance of civil defense duties is not confined to a limited time or place but extends to peacetime to deal with any emergency such as natural disasters, and to times of war when civil defense duties become of paramount importance, given that they complement the degree of military preparedness at forward front lines.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that these exercises have been successful in view of the fact that they have been conducted in a comprehensive, serious, and exceptional manner. Civil defense exercises have included all citizens who were enrolled in rapid, intensive courses aimed at opening the channels of knowledge in this vital field to enable citizens to move in a sound and balanced manner toward any exceptional situation and to implement the instructions and guidelines which provide protection for them and their families.

Concluding, the paper says: We have high confidence in our great people's ability to hold the keys of victory in any confrontation with the enemy.

Training, Drills Stepped Up

JN1512101490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0936 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—The activities and functions of the higher committees for civil defense have continued in Iraq's governorates to increase civil defense training, and to enlighten the citizens on the importance of participating in this national and humanitarian duty to face the emergency situation and deal with it. The plans that have been adopted include training classes and organizing drills to test the efficiency of the civil defense units and their ability to meet their objectives in the best possible way.

Circular on Blackouts Issued

JN1812163590 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 Dec 90 p 5

[Text] In light of the situation our struggling people find themselves in while confronting aggression, and in order to deny our enemies the opportunity to undermine our dear country, the higher commission for the Civil Defense command and administration has issued the following circular on blackout and its categories:

The actions and measures adopted by the Civil Defense are basically aimed at protecting you and protecting private and public funds and property. Adhering to and following the Civil Defense instructions will minimize losses during war and disasters. Brother and sister citizens, through these instructions on blackout and its categories, you will be informed of your duties and responsibilities to ensure the blackout is successful.

Blackout is a precautionary measure related to limiting or turning off lighting to reduce the chances for enemy aircraft to see cities and vital targets.

Blackout is divided into three categories as follows:

The first category is partial blackout. Partial blackout aims at reducing lighting and the load on power stations. This is accomplished as follows:

1. Turning off internal and external lighting.
2. Turning off decorative and advertisement lights.

3. Preventing light from houses and institutions penetrating outdoors by drawing curtains, dying glass, or covering windows with opaque paper.
4. Preparing electricity generators in institutions where work must be continued under emergency conditions.

The second category is general blackout. This means turning off lights in case of air raids, which include the following:

1. Turning off internal and external lighting of houses and turning off lights in parks, streets, and shops.
2. Turning off traffic lights.
3. Observing regulations on limiting lighting in institutions and locations where work must continue under emergency conditions.
4. Stopping means of transportation, including maritime and air transport, and turning off their lights.
5. Forbidding smoking or lighting any other source of light that emits light to the outside, and closing off gas sources.

The third category is sudden blackout. This means the measures applied in case of a sudden air raid, where a partial blackout was not implemented or was not finalized. In this case, all lighting is turned off at the main source of electricity. Bear in mind that this measure is taken only under extreme conditions because of its effect on electrical control devices and equipment.

Brother and sister citizens: Blackout measures are aimed at protecting you, your family, and the institutions in which you work. The success of the blackout depends on you in the first place and your implementation of the recommendations and directions, and adherence to the Civil Defense instructions when you hear the alarm sirens, which are as follows:

1. Turning off internal and external lighting systems of houses, institutions, and offices.
2. Preventing light from houses and workplaces from penetrating outside by drawing curtains, dying glass, or covering it with opaque paper.
3. Turning off advertisement signs in shops.
4. Reducing and limiting lighting in locations where the nature of work requires that it continues under all conditions, while taking into consideration point No. 2.
5. Stopping your car and turning off its lights.
6. Forbidding smoking or lighting any fire and closing off gas sources.

Dear citizen, take note that the blackout might not last more than minutes. It begins with intermittent alarm sirens and ends with a continuous, one-minute long alarm siren.

Preparedness Discussed

JN1612134290 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 16, INA—The under secretaries in a meeting held here today discussed plans of emergencies and degree of preparedness of each ministry and institution to counter foreign threats besetting Iraq.

During a meeting held by the Higher Evacuation Committee, Minister of Interior Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab confirmed the necessity that each citizen should know his duty and responsibility in the field of civil defence and work for implementing the instruction in this domain in precaution for all eventualities.

Positions Set Up for Training

JN1612125990 Baghdad INA in English 1114 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 16, INA—The General Civil Defence Directorate has issued new instructions and programmes with a view to creating a state of mobilization, to face up to the emergency cases in Iraq.

Press reports published here today clarified that the directorate had specified hundreds of positions in Iraq to train citizens according to specific timetables contain lectures, important information and practical training on how to face up to emergencies.

Preparations Reported

JN1712100690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0853 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, the Governorates, 17 Dec (INA)—Civil Defense preparations have continued in Iraq's governorates to face the current stage in which the forces of evil and aggression are standing againt Iraq. The programs prepared by the higher committees for civil defense include the holding of symposiums to explain the tasks of the civil defense as well as symposiums on fire extinguishing, first aid, evacuating wounded, and using masks for protection from chemical radiation [al-ish'a'at al-kimawiyah].

The higher committee for civil defense in the Dhi Qar Governorate opened eight training centers in al-Nasiriyah city; the districts of al-Shatrah, al-Rifa'i, and Suq al-Shuyukh, al-Jabsh; and al-Fuhud and al-Batha' subdistricts.

In a statement to INA, Dhi Qar Governor Taha Yasin said that so far 1,400 students had received training in civil defense work. He added that the Civil Defense Directorate carried out 13 exercises at industrial installations, held 75 seminars on the importance of civil defense in the current stage, and distributed posters on civil defense instructions and guidance.

The governor noted that the subcommittees formed in the governorate districts and subdistricts for civil defense prepared programs to hold symposiums and carry out exercises to test the effectiveness of the civil defense organs in accordance with the plan of the governorate higher committee.

Minister Opens Conference

JN1812203590 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] A conference of civil defense departments in northern and central governorates was opened in Karkuk today. The conference was chaired by Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, minister of interior and civil defense supreme chairman.

In a speech at the conference, the interior minister said there will be civil defense developments and intensive field exercises in the next few days that will reflect swift reactions and high preparedness to confront aggression and concentrations of infidelity. He said these exercises will reinforce our people's faith in victory under the leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn in the crucial battle.

The interior minister said that the honorable confrontation led by leader President Saddam Husayn has placed the Arab nation on a sound course and achieved the pan-Arab awakening of a nation that has provided (?justice), peace, and progress for mankind. He said that the proud Iraqis and people in the world will fight under the banner of leader Saddam Husayn until victory is achieved and the imperialist and Zionist evildoers are defeated.

Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab called for pooling efforts and capabilities to confront the enemy schemes.

Centers Open in Baghdad

JN1812202790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—The Interior Ministry's Civil Defense Directorate has named 342 new centers to train citizens on civil defense activities on both sides of the city of Baghdad, al-Karkh and al-Rasafah.

The director of Baghdad civil defense told INA there are 174 new centers on the al-Rasafah side and 168 centers on the al-Karkh side.

These centers, he added, will offer special civil defense courses for citizens of all social classes with a view to consolidating the masses' readiness and increasing their knowledge for handling emergencies.

He said that, as of next Saturday, the Ministry will open 370 new centers to train the staff of ministries and various departments on civil defense activities in order to qualify them as instructors.

Emergency Training Approved

JN1812144990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1014 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—A meeting held today by the Baghdad Civil Defense Directorate and attended by state ministries and departments not affiliated with ministries has discussed training specialized cadres to perform civil defense tasks and instruct people on the importance of this national and humanitarian duty.

Participants in the meeting chaired by the Baghdad Civil Defense director endorsed the holding of civil defense courses at state departments for a duration of two days each. The courses would involve four lectures per day to be devoted to explaining civil defense concepts and duties as well as first aid and the cadres' role in properly tackling and handling emergencies. [passage omitted]

Trade Figures Reported for First Half of 1990

JN1712173490 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 17, INA—The first six months of 1990 saw a wide increase in trade activity, according to figures released by the Ministry of Trade.

THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER newspaper quoted the ministry figures as indicating that considerable amount of non-oil goods were exported as part of a government plan to increase Iraq's exports by 57 per cent over figures of 1989. At the same time, three billions dollars had been allocated for 1990 imports, marking big increase over the past year.

According to the ministry's figures, export licences for goods other than oil, sulphur, fertilizers and phosphates were worth 84 million dinars during the first half of 1990, marking an increase of 124 per cent of the value of the export licences issued during the same period last year.

The initial value of export licences issued for the private sector stood at 65,640.501 dinars during the first six months of 1990. But the real value of the exports made an increase of 82 per cent compared to the same period last year.

As for imports, statistics show that three billion dinars allocated for imports represented 63 percent of 5.6 billions allocated in the Ministry plan.

The amount allocated for imports was divided between the industrial sector (52.8 percent) and agricultural sector (9.4 percent). Some 704 million dinars went to the trade sector, 32 percent less than what was allocated last year because part of the funds allocated for this sector went to that of industry and agriculture.

Some 973 million dinars were allocated for the import of intermediary goods, while there was an increase of 54 percent in the funds provided for capital goods.

As for the internal trade, a Ministry report said that in 1989 sales totalled 2.5 billion dinars. And the sale of imported goods by the private sector amounted to 35.916.000 dinars.

Meanwhile, there was a boom in trade between marketing and production companies. Contracts were concluded to supply local markets with consumer goods.

According to the statistics, during the first five months of 1990 there were increases of up to 149 percent in the implementation of contracts to supply such goods as solid oils, soap, detergents, toothpaste, shaving cream, fabrics, dry battries, ceiling fans and electric circuts.

There were icreases ranging between 110 and 521 percent of the contracts concluded between textile companies and the Supermarkets Company for the supply of the latter with various cotton and woolen textiles.

There were also increases ranging between 100 and 114 percent in the contracts concluded between the Automobile and Machinery Trading Company and the Ministry of Industry.

To help goods reach consumers easily, the Ministry of Trade has endeavoured to improve distribution agencies, for instance, there was a total of 111 wholesale branches in 1989 and 76,000 retailers spread throughout the country. Out of these retailers, 51 percent were agents of the Foodstuf Trading Company, 20 percent of the Grain Trading and Processing Company, 15 percent of the Supermarkets Company and 6.4 percent of the automobile and Machinery Trading Company and the Construction Materials Trading Company.

As for storing goods, in the years 1989-90, big silos were built to store grain at a capacity exceeding 1.5 million metric tonnes. The storing facilities saved more than 61 million dinars in 1988.

Purchases of grain, barley and rice made by the Grain Trading and Processing Company reached 1,475,608 tonnes in 1988. The company's sales of grain went up by 112 percent while those of rice grew by 110 percent and of flour 141 percent.

Since 1987, the firm has applied the direct purchasing method. By so doing, it has saved 10 million dinars from the purchases of grain and barley and 2.25 million dinars from rice.

During the six and a half months of this year, almost 49 million dinars were spent on the purchase of grain and barley from farmers compared to seven million in the same period last year. Until July 7 this year, the amount bought by the company was worth 1.50 million dinars.

According to Ministry statistics, the total capital of the Iraqi companies registered by the Company Registration Department of the Ministry last year was 692,329,000 dinars. Among these, 17 were of mixed sector, seven of private sector and 498 limited liability. They also included 74 private projects and 171 other types of licences.

The Ministry has also good relations with its counterparts and companies abroad for instance, it organizes the Baghdad International Fair every year and it takes part in 11 international fairs.

RCC Vice Chairman Heads Agriculture Meeting

JN1812212090 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Excerpts] 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has conveyed the greetings of leader President Saddam Husayn to the sons of al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. He also conveyed his excellency the president's pride in our Kurdish people's sacrifices and effective contribution to defending great Iraq. This came during a expanded meeting held by the agriculture and civil defense committees under 'Izzat Ibrahim in the al- Sulyamaniyah Governorate this morning. In a speech at the meeting, 'Izzat Ibrahim said: In accordance with God's law on earth, the awakening of any nation that faces deterioration requires a strong, enlightened phenomenon that illuminates the path of the nation. This phenomenon may be an individual or a group of individuals who make up a revolutionary movement. [passage omitted]

RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim said that our party and people have the right to be proud of the historic leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn, who, owing to the unique leadership traits God has endowed him with, has managed to lead the nation toward the fulfillment of its aspirations and will. [passage omitted]

RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim said that the restoration of Kuwait and making it the 19th governorate has put a new weapon into the hands of the Iraqis because this action has activated the good human elements in the Arab world and the world, and isolated the evil forces that support the U.S. policy of aggression and hegemony. He added that we believe that economic wealth in any Arab country is to be part of the wealth of other countries within the framework of unity and the basic common factors among the Arab nation.

'Izzat Ibrahim praised the efforts by the workers in the agriculture and civil defense committees in the al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. He urged them to go beyond the conventional in their activities through investing all available capabilities and resources and to rise to the level of sacrifice that is an intrinsic part of the souls of our Iraqi people.

Earlier, 'Izzat Ibrahim listened to a briefing by al-Sulaymaniyah Governor Kaka al-Hamad Mawlud on the tasks that have been accomplished by the agriculture and civil defense committees through the success of the planting campaign for this season and the implementation of evacuation and first aid exercises by civil defense volunteers in the governorate. [passage omitted]

200 POW's Return Home From Tehran

JN1512161190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—A new group of 200 Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] arrived home this afternoon on board a special Iraqi plane that brought them from Tehran to Baghdad.

When they disembarked, the POW's shouted slogans praising Iraq and its leader President Saddam Husayn and entreated God to protect and keep him as an asset to Iraqis and Arabs.

In statements to INA, they expressed pride in their homeland and their readiness to defend it under all circumstances.

Reportage on Visit by Al-Zahawi to Italy

WA1312194590

For reportage on the visits by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Wisam al-Zahawi to Italy, including reports on his talks with Italian Prime Minister Andreotti, please see the relevant sections of the 13 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Shamir, Levi Urge U.S. To Show 'Determination'

TA1812171190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Senator George Mitchell, the U.S. Senate majority leader, today conferred with Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Levi. The United States has a supreme interest in assuring Israel's security because it is vital to the United States' national security, Mitchell promised Levi. The Gulf crisis was the main item on the agenda for the Senate delegation during its talks here. The prime minister and foreign minister called on the United States to show determination on the Gulf crisis. If Saddam hints that he is prepared for even a partial withdrawal from Kuwait it might weaken the coalition against Iraq, the foreign minister warned. On the other hand, in the face of U.S. determination, Saddam will withdraw from Kuwait because his greatest wish is to survive, Foreign Minister Levi believes. The foreign minister expressed the belief that Saddam will withdraw from Kuwait close to the 15 January deadline.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 18 December reports that Minister Levi also told the senators that "a war in the Gulf, if it breaks out, must be fast and decisive. He believes that the United States has everything necessary to win on the battlefield and in public opinion."]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir warned the visiting senators that adopting an anti-Israeli resolution in the United Nations at this hour is playing into Saddam Husayn's hands and will make peace much harder to achieve. The United States will be making a mistake if it supports such a resolution, Shamir said. Senator Mitchell said in response that the United States always supported the Israeli position and he expects that to continue. Mitchell said that the United States opposes the deportation of Palestinians, but that does not affect relations with the State of Israel.

Shamir on Deportations, Security Council Debate

TA1812182290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Mikha'el Tuchfeld in Jerusalem; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tuchfeld] I asked Prime Minister Shamir whether the government had not been mistaken in deciding on the deportations before the Security Council had concluded its deliberations, and without coordinating the matter with the United States. Let us hear what the Prime Minister had to say:

[Shamir] Well, the murders in Yafo and in other places were not coordinated with the Security Council. The steps we adopted after the murders were necessary. Therefore, the steps we took are unconnected to the Security Council debate, and I do not think that they should have any influence on the decisions that will eventually be adopted within the framework of the United Nations. If someone does try to exploit the deportations that we have announced, it will not be because he was forced to do so but rather because he may seek to use it as a springboard to carry out his previous objectives.

[Tuchfeld] But will this not lead to a deterioration in relations with the United States, who will probably support a resolution today condemning Israel?

[Shamir] I do not believe that this will lead to a change in relations. We are not happy with this. We oppose this decision and any U.S. support of it—if its support of such a decision will indeed be forthcoming; and I still want to hope that this will not happen because this actually runs contrary to U.S. interests at this time.

[Tuchfeld] Could you perhaps be more specific as to why this would also be detrimental to U.S. interests at this time?

[Shamir] Today every decision adopted against Israel in the Security Council could be marked down as an achievement for Saddam Husayn as all these deliberations are currently under way as a result of the activities, the policy, the actions, and the threats of Saddam Husayn. One can now say that whatever the Security Council does today that is directed against Israel is thanks to him, and it will increase his prestige in the Arab world.

[Tuchfeld] I also asked the prime minister if the increase in terrorist attacks recently is not a sign of the government's ineptitude.

[Shamir] There is no ineptitude. I think it is simply stupid to be drawn in by the theory that is disseminated by the rioters and murderers and by various defeatists who are frightened and cowed by a few primitive knife-wielding thugs into believing that this can scare the people of Israel.

Levi Rejects Call for Peace Conference

TA1812211390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi says it is illogical to demand that Israel disarm itself while the state of war in the Middle East continues. Israel would be willing to discuss this issue only after the situation changes. Minister Levi made these statements during a meeting with the EC ambassadors.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reported that Minister Levi also told the ambassadors that the EC decision to support the convening of an international conference was not acceptable to Israel, saying it created a linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Shamir May Be 'Too Late' To Stop Conference

TA0712140390 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Dec 90 pp 1, 6

[Commentary by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer: "The United States Is Paying Saddam With Israeli Shekels"]

[Text] Behind the recent disclosures about the international activity to settle the Gulf crisis lies a concept, or even a grand plan, whose specifics will come to light only at the end of the conflict.

In other words, if a political solution of the crisis with Iraq is what is at stake, the U.S. renumeration will also be quoted in Israeli shekels. To allay the rampant paranoia in our midst, one could say that the moves we have been witnessing in the last few days may not conceal any consolidated plan, but that is not how the situation is perceived by an outside observer.

For the time being, leading U.S. Administration officials continue to swear their allegiance to Israel and to argue that "there is no linkage between a solution of the Gulf crisis and the need to solve the Palestinian question."

Jerusalem would very much like to believe Bush and Baker, who argue that they do not plan to reward Saddam Husayn for his aggression, but the facts and developments of the last few days make it hard for Israeli policymakers to believe the U.S. denials.

Well, what are the telling signs? The turning point came last weekend when President Bush announced that he was prepared to discuss a settlement with Saddam Husayn, while the Iraqi leader yesterday announced that he intends to release all Western hostages.

Meanwhile, the BBC reported about a draft resolution to be presented to the UN Security Council with the approval of the United States, to summon an international conference on the Palestinian question. The U.S. Administration hastened to issue a halfhearted denial.

The double-talk used by the Americans is meant to not tie their hands in the future. Contrary to its predecessor, the Bush Administration will embrace the idea of an international conference and of using the United Nations as a means to attain a solution between Israel and its neighbors.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir may find it is too late to argue that Israel will refuse to participate in an international conference. In Washington next week Shamir may find out that times have changed for Israel in this respect.

Rabin Rejects New Peace Initiatives 'at Present'

TA0712055890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has come out against any new peace initiative at this time. Rabin told reporter Le'a Zinder that such a move would lead to automatic linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue:

[Begin Rabin recording] At the present, I would not advise to call for the resumption of the political process or to come with new initiatives, because any political initiatives now, initiated by Israel or by the United States, will lead almost automatically to linkage between the crisis in the Persian Gulf and the solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. First, I would say to the United States and to the international community, solve this problem in accordance with the goals that you set and by the means that you will decide to do it, because once you achieve your goals it will be a different Middle East, much more susceptive to the advancement of the peace process. At the present, there is no opportunity, no possibility that Egypt, other Arab countries, the Palestinians will be ready to join in any reasonable peace process before they know what will be the face and the future and the forces in the Middle East as a result of what is going on now in the Persian Gulf. [end recording]

HA'ARETZ Comments U.S. Actions in Gulf

TA0512141290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Dec 90 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "Infuriating Contradictions"]

[Text] What option is the right one? The trendiest and most important guessing game in the world right now is over the import of President Bush's invitation to Iraq to come and talk. Israel, of course, is highly interested in the answer, except that it cannot be had for the moment. More importantly, however, each one of the options leads to different avenues concealing a lot of surprises. Each direction entails the most infuriating contradictions.

The two main interpretations are, as everyone knows, that it is a U.S. conciliatory move; or that it is the final effort to exhaust the moves preceding a military offensive. The third interpretation is based on a well-known assumption: that Washington does not know exactly what to do; it is less rational and organized than one had thought. The story told by the Soviet defense minister about his conversation with Secretary of State Baker during the Paris summit meeting underscores this. After hearing the detailed and reasoned assessment by Marshal Yazov that the Iraqi Army is weaker than it appears to be, Baker asked diffidently why Secretary of Defense Cheney had not told him all that.

The first possibility again conjured up the image of Chamberlain and the umbrella. But already here a strange contradiction emerged: It would be more in character for Yitzhaq Shamir and even David Levi to condemn Chamberlain-style conciliation than to condemn Ne'eman for criticizing it. Shamir and other Likud figures (Beni Begin, for one, rode high on this topic) have often raised the historic equation between the world's attitude toward us and Munich.

Now they reprimand Ne'eman. They may yet have to swallow their rebuke when we learn that in negotiations, as in wars, you may know where they start, but you cannot tell where they could lead. It will probably become apparent already at the initial stage of the talks that even the 15 January ultimatum has no teeth in the face of the Iraqi demand for talks without preconditions.

The possibility of conciliation is gaining strength thanks to the mounting opposition in the United States to war. To boot, THE NEW YORK TIMES, for instance, which has engaged in a prolonged campaign against the military option, came out with another editorial this week rejecting the pro-war arguments. Incidentally, the editor of the op-ed page is himself the descendant of a family that survived Hitler and came to Tel Aviv in the early 1940's, and then moved on to the United States. No one needs to teach Jack Rosenthal what Munich means.

Nor do the top men in the U.S. political and defense establishments, who rule out a military option, have to be reminded of it. Two former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff had testified in the Senate against war. The powerful Senator Sam Nunn, chairman of the Armed Services Committee—a Southern conservative—leads the anti-war camp in Congress. Not to mention the heavy pressure applied by the public, the media, and even senior Republicans.

The leading figures in our government (and not only there) would like to see a swift and decisive military operation against Saddam. Yet this is where a seemingly strange paradox lurks, insofar as the Likud is concerned. If the United States strikes and suffers the casualties, it will be stricken with severe nervousness. It will not be able to stomach another ongoing Middle East situation entailing the possibility of war. It will also owe the Arab countries which had helped it in the war effort some political debt, and will demand some movement from Israel. The paradox is that it is the camp known here as the peace camp, of all groups, that should be interested in war that leads to a settlement.

On the other hand, if the United States and Iraq engage in a diplomatic process, it will be easier for our government to block an effort for a settlement here. It will be able to tell the Americans: Look here, you reached a compromise with that brutal bastard, and yet you demand concessions from us? A superpower that capitulated to Saddam will have a hard time standing firm against us.

Besides this hypothesis on the outcome of the discussions with Iraq there is still another one: If the United States is forced to surrender to Iraq, Washington will probably find itself obligated to give in later to greater pressures from the Arab camp for an assertive settlement of the Palestinian problem.

Amid this entangled knot, the cumulative impression is that the flow of events and the direction toward which the processes inside the United States and the Western coalition are leaning is the nonmilitary option. The prime minister, who departs tomorrow for the United States, will be unable to find there answers that are any clearer than the U.S. Administration can give itself. Yet Shamir's dilemma could drive a person crazy. The best possibility is precisely the one to which he objects: A political settlement with Iraq will serve his political goals better than war.

No Change Seen in U.S. Palestinian Policy

TA0712190590 Jerusalem AL QUDS in Arabic 7 Dec 90 p 7

[Editorial: "The International Conference...When?"]

[Text] News agencies had hardly begun relaying the news about the agreement by the Security Council's five permanent members to convene an international conference on the Middle East at an appropriate time, when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed his lack of concern over this question and insisted on downplaying the importance of Washington's consent to an international peace conference.

The Israeli Government headed by Yitzhaq Shamir has rejected everything that has been proposed by the U.S. Administration with respect to launching a peace process, including U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's procedural points on holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo to discuss the plan proposed by Shamir in May 1989.

If reports of U.S. consent to convening an international conference at the appropriate time turn out to be true, a judgment on this position requires one to have prior knowledge of several things.

Does this consent mean that the U.S. Administration has become tired of Shamir's foot-dragging and obstinacy and has decided to join the international peace tendencies? Or is such a consent connected to the Gulf crisis and the U.S. Administration's refusal to link the solution of all the region's problems? Does this mean that Iraq must first withdraw from Kuwait and that an international conference will be held later at an appropriate time? And what is the appropriate time? Is it the time at which Israel will agree on the convocation of an international conference?

Because reports of Washington's consent to the international conference are still vague, it is not possible to make a judgment on a premature issue, but the U.S. Administration's separation of international legitimacy and its double-talk—by insisting on not linking all the region's problems—indicate no change in the U.S. position toward the Palestinian problem.

The approaching Iraqi-U.S. talks, the Iraqi leadership's decision to allow foreign nationals to leave Iraq if they so wish, and the Iraqi leadership's eagerness to defuse the crisis since its outbreak affirm that the Gulf crisis is nearing a peaceful solution and that mere talk about

debating the Palestinian problem following the conclusion of this crisis is evidence of a lack of seriousness.

The Middle East's problems did not begin on 2 August 1990. Returning to the roots in order to resolve problems calls, first and foremost, for seeking a solution to the Palestinian problem in conformity with international legitimacy.

IAI Freezes Involvement in Joint Aircraft Deal

TA1012111190 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 10 Dec 90 p 3

[Report by Alex Fishman]

[Excerpt] Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] has frozen its plans for further activity on the U.S.-Soviet-Israeli project to upgrade and produce passenger aircraft of Soviet manufacture. The IAI was supposed to participate as a subcontractor in the deal. Sources in the IAI said the reason behind its decision was the fact that the investors—the Avi company, headed by oil magnate Armand Hammer, and engine producers Pratt-Whitney—did not deliver the required funds to begin implementing the plan.

According to the plan, which was announced by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev several months ago, 200 Ilyushin aircraft and 200 Tupolevs were scheduled for production over a five-year period starting in the first quarter of 1995. The value of the project in 1990 prices is $23 billion. As a subcontractor, the IAI would have received a profit of tens of millions of dollars and would have absorbed hundreds of new workers. [passage omitted]

Agreement Signed With French Satellite Company

TA1412131690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Israel will soon pick of broadcasts from the French Spot set satellite. An agreement was signed today between the Israel agency for using outer space and the French Spot Image company. The satellite broadcasts are expected to be used in the fields of agriculture, meteorology, cartography, urban planning, and geology.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 11 December in a report on page 10 adds that the agreement will also supply "useful data" for "security purposes. The photos will be received at an Israel Aircraft Industries station."]

Lebanese Developments Seen as Dangerous

TA0712163290 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Dec 90 p 14

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "The Palestinian Trap in Lebanon"]

[Text] Will the Palestinian refugees in southern Lebanon get up and abandon their bullet-pocked huts and start to march toward the Israeli border, so that even the forgotten episode of the "ship of return" [the failed PLO attempt to bring Palestinian deportees back to Israel in a rented Greek boat] will be remembered fondly? The latest developments in Lebanon, the total lack of understanding in Jerusalem about the repercussions of the al-Ta'if accord for the Palestinians in Lebanon, and Jerusalem's adherence to the concept that whatever harms the Palestinians is necessarily good for Israel are bringing the day closer when Israel will face an unprecedented challenge from the Palestinians in Lebanon.

The first chapter of the al-Ta'if accord was completed this week by the members of the pro-American "triangular axis"—Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia: The last of the "Lebanese Forces" under Samir Ja'ja' have left the greater Beirut area. They held up their departure from the Christian neighborhood of al-Ashrafiyah in East Beirut until they received guarantees that the well-being of the Christians would be assured. They did not, however, receive any special commitment, but they took into account that the "pax Americana" in Beirut, under the aegis of the triangular axis, will in the future also be the leading force in Lebanon and the Gulf, and the means by which the United States will implement the "new order" in the Middle East.

This effort has many opponents, including Iraq, the PLO, and...Israel. Iraq is furious over the collapse of its force in Lebanon after the fall of its ally, Marshall 'Awn [as published], but it cannot do anything about it. The PLO is concerned about the fate of the Palestinians in southern Lebanon because in the next stage, after its losses in greater Beirut, the same thing might happen in the "greater Sidon" area. In order words, the Beirut government's authority will be strengthened in southern Lebanon, especially in Sidon.

Although one should not expect the central government's main interest to switch to the south soon, especially because of the Kuwaiti crisis and the desire to stabilize its gains in Beirut. Nevertheless, all the parties involved in Lebanon already know where the al-Ta'if accords are leading. The U.S. ambassador in Damascus has already said that the PLO will have to disarm, as have all the other militias in Lebanon, and this has far-reaching significance for many reasons. We must point out that the PLO fears the refugee camps will remain defenseless.

The PLO's armed presence in Lebanon is protected in the Cairo agreements of 1969. Its essence is: The Lebanese Government recognized the right of the Palestinians to carry arms and considered the refugee camps as being in Palestinian sovereign territory. The Lebanese Government now says that the Cairo agreements are no longer valid and is entering into a confrontation with the PLO.

The first to express dissatisfaction with the Lebanese Government's position was Shafiq al-Hut, the Palestinian ambassador in Beirut. In mid-November there was a wide-ranging seminar in Beirut on the new reforms

and the historic changes taking place in Lebanon, and among those invited to attend was the Palestinian ambassador. Shafiq al-Hut made it plain that implementation of the al-Ta'if accords in southern Lebanon calls for opening a "file on Lebanese-Palestinian relations." He said that the PLO is not a Lebanese militia, that it existed as an armed force in Lebanon 10 years before the militias were established, and its presence is protected in the resolutions of the Arab League.

More detailed remarks were made by Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] in the middle of last week on the day that the evacuation of the Lebanese militias from greater Beirut was completed. In an interview with AL-YAWM AL-SABI', the Palestinian weekly published in Paris, Abu-Iyad said that the PLO cannot give up the Cairo agreements and that he is prepared to enter into talks with the Lebanese Government on that. Lebanese spokesmen reject any talks with the PLO and are demanding its complete disarmament.

Israel has a strange and dangerous policy toward the changes taking place in Lebanon. First, it is not part of the overall implementation of the al-Ta'if accords. It is, therefore, an obstacle to the implementation of U.S. policy on one of the central fronts in its struggle against Saddam Husayn. Just as Israel upsets the United States with its policy in the territories by raising the profile of the Palestinian problem at the expense of the concentration of efforts against Iraq, Israel's negative attitude to the al-Ta'if accords threatens a similar result. Israel is preparing to defend its security zone at any price, and there is concern that the situation is going to change completely: Instead of the security zone defending the Israeli northern settlements, Israel is now defending the security zone, through its "initiated activities" beyond the security zone.

Minister Arens was known as an opponent of the Israeli withdrawal to the security zone. There is a feeling that his response to the implementation of the al-Ta'if accords might reflect an aspiration to annex the Jazzin area to the security zone. There is no doubt that there are Palestinian organizations—such as those of George Habash and Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]—that are transferring their activities to the Israeli border in order to heat it up and torpedo the al-Ta'if accords, as well as aid blockaded Saddam Husayn. Israel must prepare for this danger, but not in a way that will help Saddam Husayn and sabotage the al-Ta'if accords, since it would be entering into a confrontation with the United States and causing long-term damage to the status of the Palestinians in Lebanon. That would force the Palestinians to get up in droves "to return home" to Israel.

On the developing confrontation with the Americans, attention must be paid to the remarks made in Washington by Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly on 16 November at a dinner for U.S. citizens of Lebanese descent. At the head table were John Sununu, White House chief of staff, and Ambassador Phillip Habib. Kelly, whose previous post as ambassador in Beirut prepared him for his current State Department position, stressed the need for all "foreign forces" to leave Lebanon. He did not go into details, but he meant the Iranian Revolutionary Forces, the Syrian Army, the PLO, and...Israel.

Kelly pointed out that the al-Ta'if accords give Syria a role in the al-Biqa' in a way that does not harm Lebanon's sovereignty. On Israel, he said: "There are those who say that since the United States has stuck to its promise to guarantee Israel's security and its right to exist, Washington will compromise over Lebanon. I came here to tell you that the United States will not compromise over Lebanon."

The PLO has already bared its teeth over the Cairo agreements, but we should note that despite the current crisis Washington and Tunis have not crossed any red lines. This has been seen especially in Lebanon. Fatah is maintaining the cease-fire with Israel, and 'Arafat refused to participate with Abu-al-'Abbas, Abu-Nidal, and Shaykh al-Tamimi in terrorist actions in Egypt. Abu-al-'Abbas has also blamed elements in Fatah for being behind the closure of his offices in Libya. 'Arafat's support for Saddam Husayn is very problematic, but in a document published by the U.S. State Department on 5 November detailing the terrorist organizations linked to Saddam Husayn, the PLO does not appear; at most, "elements" or "friends" inside the PLO are mentioned. 'Arafat's name is not mentioned in the same breath as that of Abu-al-'Abbas or George Habash and their henchmen.

That is yet another reason why Shamir will try to sabotage U.S. efforts in the Middle East. He is expected to enter into a confrontation with the Americans. If he does not adapt himself to the changing Middle East, the main damage in Lebanon might be that defenseless Palestinians in the refugee camps, open to attacks from Israel on the one hand, and from those inside Lebanon who want to harm them on the other, will rise up in desperation to fulfill their "right of return." Harming Palestinians, killing or wounding them, is not necessarily in Israel's vital interest. If Israel does not want to arouse in a dramatic way the need to fulfill the right of return, it must make sure that the Palestinians become part of the new Lebanese scene rather than being forced out into Israel.

Polish, Canadian Envoys Present Credentials

TA1212110690 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Dec 90 p 6

[ITIM report]

[Summary] "The first Polish ambassador since 1967, when Poland severed relations with Israel, and the Canadian ambassador yesterday presented their credentials to President Hayim Herzog in a ceremony held at the presidential residence." The Polish ambassador is Jan Dowgiallo, while the Canadian ambassador is Michael Douglas Bell.

'Branch' of Bonn Embassy Opened in Berlin

TA1212174790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Israel is opening a branch of its Bonn Embassy in Berlin. The Foreign Ministry told our political correspondent Arye Golan that after the reunification of Germany all the countries with established embassies in East Berlin had changed their status to that of branches of their Bonn embassies.

MK's Depart on Visit to Lithuania, Latvia

TA0412070990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Two members of the Knesset [MK], Speaker Dov Shilansky and Arye Eli'av, are leaving for the Soviet Union on a visit to Lithuania and Latvia. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh says that the two were invited by the parliaments of the two republics, and that their visit is described as an official one. [passage omitted]

Olmert Rejects Transfer on 'Practical,' 'Moral' Grounds

TA0912115190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The weekly cabinet meeting today was briefer than usual; it was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, who is standing in for Mr. Shamir during the latter's trip to the United States.

The political issue was not on the meeting's agenda and was mentioned in passing and to the media afterward. Israel should not give in to political dictates, they said. They were all against the idea of an international conference.

The cabinet meeting began with a security briefing, but no reference was made to the intifadah's third anniversary today.

The remarks of Minister Yuval Ne'eman, who implicitly referred last night to the need to transfer Arabs, aroused opposition among the ministers. Minister Ehud Olmert said that he rejects the idea both on practical and moral grounds. He said he supports deportation, but only on an individual basis. Olmert urged the government to create conditions that will allow the security forces to function with a standard of competence demanded by the conditions.

Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz reported on his visit to Moscow. This issue, too, aroused no queries.

Update on 6 Dec Intifadah Incidents

TA0712111190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Dec 90 pp A2, A3

[Report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] A general strike was observed yesterday in the territories, in accordance with a call issued by the Islamic Jihad. [passage omitted] Palestinian sources in the West Bank reported that two people were wounded in Ramallah. In the West Bank, Hasan Hasash, aged 29, was stabbed to death. He was suspected of collaboration with the authorities. His body was left in the street. [passage omitted]

An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly injured in the Gaza Strip yesterday. He was taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba and sent home after treatment.

Palestinian sources reported clashes with the IDF in Gaza city, and in the Khan Yunus and Rafah refugee camps. They claimed that five residents were injured in Gaza city, and 50 persons suffered from tear gas inhalation in Khan Yunus. [passage omitted]

Representatives of the IDF spokesman at the Southern and Central Commands reported few disturbances and curfews in numerous villages and refugee camps. [passage omitted]

The border policeman who was seriously injured when shot in the head in Gaza two days ago, was apparently wounded when his personal weapon accidently fired. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv Davar in Hebrew on 7 December in a page 12 ITIM report adds that "the military court in Hebron yesterday sentenced 21-year-old Nisam Hamrish from Hebron to life imprisonment after convicting him on his own confession of shooting and killing a policeman from Hebron in the center of Gaza city on 25 December 1989 after suspecting him of cooperating with the authorities.

"Two residents of al-Tayyibah were sentenced to 10 years in prison after being convicted of 13 counts of car torchings in their village. The sentence was handed down by Judge Tzvi Hakohen in the Tel Aviv District Court. The two men are brothers, aged 18 and 19."]

Intifadah Anniversary Curfew; Casualty Figures

TA0912053990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Palestinians in the territories are marking the third anniversary of the intifadah. The security forces have imposed widespread curfews in order to avoid possible disturbances. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin Weiss recording] As usual on a major Palestinian anniversary, the security forces are taking no chances and have imposed widespread curfews on towns, villages, and refugee camps throughout the territories. The entire Gaza Strip, with the exception of Bayt Hanun, is under curfew. In Judaea and Samaria, large areas where no curfews have been imposed have been declared closed military zones.

According to military sources, the casualty figures after three years of the uprising stands at 390 Palestinians killed in Judaea and Samaria and 233 in the Gaza Strip.

These figures include both those killed by the security forces and those murdered by fellow Palestinians on suspicion of cooperating with the authorities. In Judaea and Samaria, six soldiers have been killed and 11 civilians. In the Gaza Strip, three soldiers.

Extra soldiers have been sent to the territories for today's anniversary. In Jerusalem, 2,000 police and border police will be patrolling to prevent possible unrest.

The Rakah Communist Party will be marking the anniversary with a rally tomorrow at Umm al-Fahm.

Two reserve soldiers who were attacked by Molotov cocktails in Janin and did not return fire have been tried and given suspended sentences. Instead of firing at the assailants, the two soldiers retreated in their army vehicle. A senior officer said the actions of the two soldiers were in gross violation of standing orders.

SHAS MK Aide Indicted on Wiretapping Charges

TA0612110290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Dec 90 p 9

[Excerpt] —Eli Tzuberi, 32, parliamentary assistant to SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] MK [Knesset member] Rabbi Aryeh Gamli'el, was yesterday charged with involvement in the illegal wire-tapping of the telephone belonging to YEDI'OT AHARONOT reporter Mordekhay Gilat.

Also charged in the district court here were Yehuda Tzuberi, Eli's brother, an accountant for the Iram private investigations office in Tel Aviv; Ya'aqov Eshel, 40, a private investigator; Tony Mo'asi, 29, a former telephone technician at Bezeq who later worked as a subcontractor for placing bugs for private investigators, and his brother, Qarmi'el, 24, who is accused of assisting him in installing the instruments; and Ilan Hamra, 25, a former police officer now working as an independent transcriber of secret recordings.

Eli Tzuberi is accused of destroying evidence, illegal tapping and installation of tapping equipment. All the others are charged with illegal bugging and installing instruments for the purpose of tapping the reporter's telephone lines.

This is the first charge sheet in the so-called "Der'i Affair." [passage omitted]

Forecast of Ethiopian Jewish Immigration Revealed

TA0612153390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Eight hundred Ethiopian Jews are expected to immigrate in the next two months, and as of February, 1,000 will come from Addis Ababa every month. This was disclosed by Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz in a meeting of a subcommittee of the Ministerial Committee on Aliyah, which met in Jerusalem. The subcommittee decided that young Ethiopian families will be moved to their permanent residences and will receive the same amount of money as Soviet immigrants. Only needy families and special cases will be directed to absorption centers.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh points out that approximately 20,000 Jews are still living in Ethiopia.

Local Firm Manufactures Computer for F-16s

TA0512204990 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The Bet Shemesh Rada Electronic Industries plant today handed the first airborne computer manufactured in Israel to representatives of General Dynamics. The computer, which is the result of exclusive Israeli production, is one of the most sophisticated in the world market. It will be installed aboard F- 16's. The computer's development took three years and cost $4 million. The computer is a technological breakthrough in modern fighter aircraft operation. Our correspondent Beni Liss reports:

The black box handed today to Ge..eral Dynamics—one of the major fighter aircraft manufacturers—contains the most sophisticated computer built to date for the F-16 manufactured for Israel. Air Force representatives monitored all the computer's development stages and presented their demands. The new computer allows relay of data on navigation, targets, warfare means, and communication. It controls and guides all the aircraft's computers. The data is prepared at the stage when the assignment is being planned, after which every pilot receives a cassette with details of the plane's assignment. [passage omitted]

Squad Uncovered in al-Tayyibah, 13 Detained

TA0612140190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The security forces have uncovered a squad in al-Tayyibah which had perpetrated dozens of nationalistically motivated and security targeted events. The squad was uncovered by the Shin Bet with the assistance of Hasharon District Police.

Our correspondent Bo'az Orgad reports that so far, 13 al-Tayyibah residents have been detained. Among other things, they are suspected of hurling stones at policemen, setting Bezeq property on fire, placing barricades at the town's exit, writing dozens of nationalistic slogans, shattering windows in al-Tayyibah's municipal building, and hoisting PLO flags. While carrying out these hostile activities, the suspects were masked and armed with knives. One of the detainees is suspected of supplying a gun to a strike committee affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the Nur al-Shams refugee camp, near Tulkarm.

Three residents of this refugee camp have been detained on suspicion of participation in disturbances in their area. One of them is suspected of having participated in

the murder of a camp resident believed to be a collaborator. This morning, six first charge sheets were filed with the Tel Aviv District Court in this case.

November CPI Increases 1.3 Percent

TA1412134290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The consumer price index [CPI] has increased 1.3 percent in November and 17.1 percent since the beginning of 1990. Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports that the rise was lower than had been forecast by Treasury officials, and was caused by an increase in the price of food and a seasonal increase in the price of fruit, vegetables, footwear, and clothing. The consumption basket of an average family now totals 3,590 Israeli shekels.

*U.S., Israeli Attitudes Toward Jerusalem Viewed

91AE0121A Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Oct 90 p 6

[Article by David Makovsky]

[Text] Almost two weeks ago, on the eve of the fateful cabinet meeting which rejected any cooperation with a U.S.-backed UN probe of the Temple Mount riots, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir convened his top advisers at his home to discuss the consequences of the move which would mean a certain confrontation with the Bush Administration.

However, as one official describes it, Shamir felt a confrontation with this U.S. administration was inevitable, as it has already begun to subjugate Israel's concerns to its anti-Iraq Arab coalition, and this will only get worse as the Gulf crisis continues. The question is whether the confrontation with the Bush administration will come sooner rather than later, as the U.S. president must be disabused of the notion that he needs to pay off his newfound coalition partners at Israel's expense. This, especially in a post-crisis situation when the territorial question may come to the fore.

Shamir was indeed genuinely angry about the UN move, which made no explicit condemnation of stonethrowing at Jewish holiday worshippers at the Western Wall and which called East Jerusalem "occupied territory." However, Shamir was not acting on emotion alone. The official said Shamir decided it was preferable to confront the U.S. from the high ground now, when the issue is a consensus one in Israel, such as Jerusalem, as opposed to the low ground after the crisis, when the issue is a divisive one, such as a territorial settlement. On the issue of Jerusalem, there are a domestic consensus, a united American Jewish community and a supportive U.S. Congress—all necessary in confronting the administration.

Shamir believed comprehensive consensus support proved itself last March when Bush termed East Jerusalem neighborhoods "settlements;" an uproar ensued, and the administration dropped the issue.

The decision was made, and Shamir has not swerved since, despite immense international pressure, a second UN resolution this week urging reconsideration, and a written appeal by Bush for Israel to accept even a modified UN mission.

Israel's defiance of the UN (and what it means for ties with Washington) notwithstanding, it may be surmised—though not confirmed—that Shamir said during that meeting that the issue is establishing UN authority not only on the sensitive issue of Jerusalem but in the Middle East in general.

There is concern that the UN may emerge as a real power, and no longer just a forum for anti-Western and anti-Israel hectoring. With the overriding issue no longer being the Cold War, the economic sanctions against Iraq illustrate the muscles of a new multilateralism at the UN; and the sum of the body, which is not sympathetic to Israel, might be greater than its individual parts.

During these last two weeks there seems to be more than an ocean separating Israel and the Bush administration. While the U.S. officials knew that they had no way to influence Shamir, they were hopeful that the effort they invested in Foreign Minister David Levi would at least lead the government to modify its original decision. U.S. officials were disappointed that Levi, who was criticized for his controversial letter to Baker on the $400 million housing guarantee, has been totally silent during the current tensions.

Shamir does not accept the U.S. assumption that Israel's accommodating itself to the UN will cause the Temple Mount issue to lose salience. Nor does he accept the broader U.S. critique that all issues, apart from confronting Saddam Husayn, must be put aside for the greater cause.

Sources including top officials in both countries say the mistrust between Bush and Shamir began over a year and a half ago, when Bush thought he had secured Shamir's agreement to freeze settlement activity. It continued when Bush thought Shamir misled him over whether Soviet Jewish immigrants receive incentives for living over the Green line. It culminated when Shamir dropped the idea of a U.S.-brokered Israeli-Palestinian dialogue last March. This, along with the Shamir initiative, was at the center of peacemaking efforts for much of a year tailored to win Likud support.

Respected analyst Thomas Friedman wrote in THE NEW YORK TIMES that Israel immediately distrusted the administration because, unlike its Reagan-Shultz predecessors, it did not have an established track record of visceral support for Israel's positions, as it was more concerned with hard progress on the long-dormant peace process.

A senior Bush administration official told THE JERUSALEM POST this week, amid the tensions between the two countries, "we need to rebuild a modicum of trust. We are groping in the dark, but are not sure how to get

there." He stated what many others have been urging, namely the need for a Bush-Shamir meeting to clear the air, but suggested that other unspecified steps were needed first.

One staunchly pro-Israel U.S. source was less hopeful, saying "there is now permanent bad blood between Bush and Shamir. The Israeli refusal to cooperate with the UN has created deep animus. People here are exasperated."

This week, the refrain of Israeli officials, however, has been that the U.S. takes Israel for granted due to the situation in the Gulf and Israel's willingness to take a "low profile." One official said "they think we'll keep swallowing. We had to show the administration we can draw the line as well." Israel realized it needed the help of American Jewish leaders and members of Congress in the confrontation with the Bush administration.

Several Israeli officials said they believed Jerusalem's odds in the confrontation have improved, since Bush dropped 20 points in popularity polls over the mishandling of the fiscal deficit, suggesting that while Bush's support might be a kilometer wide, it's only a centimeter deep.

One U.S. analyst said "Bush does not have instinctive convictions on any issues like Reagan had. Instead, he likes consensus and understands only political parameters. He wants what works. Therefore the issue had to become a domestic one in the U.S., especially as it is the eve of midterm elections."

The U.S. Congress, Israel's main bastion of support in Washington, has been of crucial help. The Senate trounced a resolution last week by a leading critic of Israel, Senator Robert Dole, by a 90-8 margin. A vote to supply Israel with $700 million worth of U.S. military equipment from surplus stocks in Europe, passed by a whipping 97-1 margin. Israelis believe this sends an important signal to the administration.

Shamir has publicly praised American Jewish officials, who have shown unity during the current round of tension with the administration. The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations last week hosted U.S. Ambassador to the UN Thomas Pickering in a closed meeting with 50 participants. The session was described by some as "brutal" and "one of the toughest confrontations with any administration official," with American Jews charging that the U.S. condemnation at the UN fit into a broader pattern of indifference to an Israel which is being directly threatened by Saddam Husayn.

However, the sharpest criticism at the meeting is said to have come from George Klein, an Orthodox New York Jewish developer who is one of the heads of a select group of Jewish Republicans in close touch with the White House and who has known Bush for many years. Klein, along with Republican Jewish leader Max Fisher, has quietly been meeting with Shamir at his home during visits here and passing messages back to the White House to ease the strain of the relationship.

At this meeting with Pickering, Klein (who shuns publicity) spoke up and termed the Bush administration attitude towards Israel "immoral." This was heard immediately. Within four days, Bush hosted Klein, Fisher and two other prominent Jewish Republicans at the White House. The meeting was attended by all Bush's top advisers, including Secretary of State James Baker. The Jewish Republicans laid out the criticism about the chill in relations between the two countries, and Bush agreed to meet a broader cross-section of the Jewish leadership within two weeks.

However, betting on American Jewish influence to come through is not simple during this period; one needs to be very cautious in challenging an American president at the very time he has dispatched 200,000 troops to the Middle East. Therefore, while standing up publicly with Israel in its rejection of the UN delegation, Jewish leaders privately counseled Shamir to find a crack in the cabinet rejection of the UN so as not to risk a break with the administration.

In the broader sense, American Jewish leaders who have close ties with the second- and third-tier policymakers have less access to Bush and Baker and less influence than they did under Reagan. One American Jewish official said, "We have met with Baker twice since he took office (January 1989), but during a comparable period we would have met with Shultz 13 or 14 times."

The official qualified his remarks by saying that Baker shies away from meetings not only with American Jews, but with all types of interest groups. The official also noted that many meetings with Shultz were related to Soviet Jewish advocacy, an issue that disappeared once the Kremlin opened its gates.

But the issue is not just access; it is influence. One official explained that in the Reagan years there would be someone senior at the White House who could be counted on to explain the Israeli rationale for actions the U.S. did not like, and Reagan's response would be something like "the Israelis must have had a reason." There is nobody inside this administration to make the case to the president.

Nevertheless, beyond the fog of tensions between the two countries, many say it is important to see the opportunities the Gulf crisis can afford:

- First, the hottest acronym in Mideast diplomacy is CBM, or confidence-building measures. In a Washington speech delivered during the last couple of weeks by Baker's top aide on the Middle East, Dennis Ross, he outlined a scenario of Israel and Arab states making initial steps to peace, by engaging in the same sort of embryonic mechanism, such as the coordinating military maneuvers in the region, that ultimately launched U.S. arms control. (Foreign Minister David Levi also made reference to the idea during his speech at the UN at the start of this month.)

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office expressed satisfaction that the danger of Saddam Husayn has led the

U.S. to do what Shamir has always wanted it to do, namely, view the conflict here as one with Arab states not just with Palestinians.

Second, while Israeli officials are privately disappointed that a U.S. war against Saddam is not on the immediate horizon, they admit that for now Israel is better off with U.S. troops in the region, as it will make Saddam think twice about the implications of attacking Israel. Some say that Shamir's anger with Bush results from his view that he does not believe now that the U.S. will attack Saddam, and therefore he is worried that Israel will be stuck with Saddam Husayn when the crisis is over.

However, it should be said that all indications are that any diplomatic solution to the crisis will lead to a U.S.-led multilateral containment strategy against Saddam including an embargo on materiel needed for conventional and non-conventional weapons, possibly with some form of enhanced U.S. presence in the region. It remains unclear if Shamir's calculated defiance, paying short-term costs while possibly risking long-term benefits, will mean irreparable damage in his badly strained ties with the Bush Administration. Or, as officials in the Prime Minister's bureau hope, will the Zamir Commission report on the Temple Mount take a lot of the sting out of the current tension? On a deeper level, however, of the more than a dozen sources interviewed, including officials in both countries, it is telling that nobody saw the light at the end of the tunnel. Nobody would venture to speculate how the rocky U.S.-Israel ties can get back on track after a year and a half of sustained trouble.

Stolen Vehicles on Returned Ships Denied

JN1812121990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Dec 90 p 2

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—A Sudanese vessel carrying vehicles of evacuees from Kuwait is waiting outside the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba for the government of Sudan to settle a dispute over the ownership of its cargo, officials and shipping agents said Sunday.

The Cypriot-registered Dongola, owned by the Sudanese Shipping Lines, was bound for Port Sudan when it was intercepted by American warships in the Red Sea earlier this week.

According to American spokesmen, some of the vehicles aboard were suspected of being "stolen" from Kuwait—a charge denied by the vessel's agents in Jordan who said that every procedure proving ownership was followed before the vehicles were loaded aboard the ship before it sailed on Dec. 12.

"They are alleging that the ship is carrying stolen vehicles, but as far as we know each and every one of the 352 vehicles aboard has proper documents proving their ownership," said Samir Ardakani, general manager of Gharghur and Fils, agents for the Dongola.

Ardakani said the vessel was carrying 252 small vehicles and the rest were larger trucks, pick-ups, trailers and tankers. Some of the smaller vehicles were loaded on the trailers and trucks, he said.

Another vessel, Talia, also Cypriot-registered but Norwegian owned, was on its way to the Yemeni port of Hudaydah in the Red Sea after its agents provided "certain clarifications and explanations" over its cargo of 70 small cars owned by Yemeni expatriates evacuated from Kuwait, the ship's agents in Amman said.

The two ships, which set sail from al-'Aqabah, were intercepted Thursday by U.S. warships enforcing a United Nations trade embargo against Iraq.

According to Rear Admiral Riley D. Mixson, commander of the U.S. navy task force in the Red Sea, the two vessels were boarded and searched and stopped from proceeding.

It was found that at least one of the vessels was carrying cars shipped out "to make money" and therefore ordered to return to al-'Aqabah, according to an officer aboard the USS Mississippi, one of the warships patrolling the Red Sea. Subsequently, the two ships returned to the Straits of Tiran and contacted their agents for further procedures.

A senior official of International Freight Services and Transport, a shipping agent in Amman, said the vessel Talia was allowed to proceed to its destination of Hudaydah after its cargo was cleared.

But the Dongola was still awaiting clearance Sunday, Ardakani told the Jordan Times.

"Every procedure of establishing ownership of the vehicles has been followed in line with guidelines set under an agreement between the Sudanese government and the embassy of Kuwait in Khartoum," he said.

He explained that some of the cars aboard the vessel had been at al-'Aqabah Port since August and had to be loaded onto trailers since their engines were not in running condition because of weak batteries.

"Some others had to be hot-wired since their owners had left for Khartoum by air from Amman but did not give us the keys," Ardakani said.

"The absence of keys and the presence of cars loaded on trailers aboard the Dongola appeared to have aroused suspicion and prompted the diversion order," he added.

"We have shipped thousands of cars bearing Kuwaiti and Iraqi licence plates after following all the set guidelines and regulations," he said. "This is the first time the warships are intercepting vehicles of evacuees from Kuwait."

Ardakani also said that the enforcers of the embargo on Iraq were also "claiming that one of the trucks aboard the vessel is military, but we do not know whether it is military or otherwise. All we are concerned is that the ownerships of every vehicle has been established beyond any doubt."

In any event, he said, "we are not willing to provide any guarantee or clarification over the vehicles since these have entered Jordan in transit under the proper procedures and those who want any explanation should contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Khartoum."

A spokesman for the Sudanese embassy in Amman said the Khartoum government was in touch with the American diplomatic mission in the Sudanese capital over the issue.

"We hope the matter will be settled soon, and that the ship could resume its voyage to Sudan," said the spokesman who preferred anonymity.

Prince Hasan Speaks on Gulf to U.S. Clergymen

JN1612210390 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at the Royal Court a group of leading U.S. Protestant and orthodox clergymen who are visiting Jordan as part of peace efforts to avert war in the region. During the meeting, his royal highness pointed out his majesty's role in finding a peaceful inter-Arab solution to the Gulf crisis on the basis of Security Council Resolution 660. The crown prince spoke about the devastating results of war in the Gulf and its effects on the region in particular and the world in general. Prince Hasan also explained the negative

effects on Jordan's economy as a result of economic blockade on Iraq. He also warned of the demographic dimension caused by the Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab lands. The crown prince also touched upon the projected Iraqi-U.S. dialogue:

[Begin Hasan recording, in progress] The meetings were proposed on the basis of familiarizing the Iraqis with United Nations Security Council resolutions, or issuing a warning, effectively, over the disastrous consequences of non-compliance. I personally, if I may express the view, would have expected this message to have been delivered by the Security Council, by the secretary general with unanimous support of the permanent five. However, what we have seen is an attempt to deliver this message on the basis of a visit by Tariq 'Aziz to Washington. And let us face it, if Tariq 'Aziz was to meet the highest court of appeal in the first meeting, the President of the United States, and if—let us assume under the present circumstances and given the poisonous atmosphere that exists at the present time, and I do not think I exaggerate in using that adjective—that meeting is not successful, what sequence do we then envisage—I am talking about the best circumstance scenario? [end recording]

U.S. Conspiracy Against Iraq, Arabs Criticized

JN1912080090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
19 Dec 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Battle Is No Longer Far Away"]

[Text] The United States is no longer prepared to conceal any part of its racist intentions toward the Arab nation. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union and Washington's success in mobilizing this alliance against Iraq, the United States began to draw up its plans openly, announce its plans unequivocally, and say in public that its aim is to destroy the Iraqi force so that it cannot form the nucleus of an Arab force that is capable of confrontation and of defending the pan-Arab honor and pride. Moreover, Washington, which has discarded all its allies, has become so arrogant that Baker has announced that his country will not object to an Iraqi-European dialogue, so long as it is not held in Washington's name and so long as it does not bind it. This announcement reflects the extent of Washington's contempt for Europe. Washington is replacing the international legitimacy and the United Nations in making and implementing resolutions, and is giving itself the right to put its own interpretation on every international law. Due to this colonialist mentality, we no longer hear the voice of the UN secretary general or the other big powers, the permanent members of the UN Security Council. After it succeeded in turning Moscow into a small powerless satellite, the United States is also exerting extensive efforts to weaken Beijing and Paris, considering that London is still the loyal echo of the American voice.

The implementation of the Security Council's resolutions is the responsibility of the United Nations and its secretary general, and not the responsibility of Washington and the invasion forces, which are desecrating our Arab homeland and our Islamic sanctities. It seems that the only force confronting the American arrogance and looking forward to fighting it and covering its face with dust is the Iraqi force and the millions of Arabs and Muslims who are standing in the nation's trench against its enemies, defending its dignity, and rejecting Washington's insistence on turning us into a nation of slaves and millions of humiliated and meek people.

Therefore, with every American escalation, the American conspiracy becomes clearer—a conspiracy which is not aimed only against Iraq and the Iraqis, but also against Iraq's entire homeland, the Iraqis' entire nation. This stresses the need to prepare for the sacred war, after which we will either be martyrs or humiliated slaves. We are confident that these millions of Arabs will achieve victory, will destroy everything that is American, and will know how to teach the enemies and their connivers a lesson with the weapons of grudge and revenge, starting with stones and knives and ending with the latest technological achievements.

The hour of battle is no longer far away, and this large homeland will be a real graveyard for the last racist colonialists, whose faces bear all the ugliness of the American face.

Medicines Arrive in Amman En Route to Baghdad

JN1712191190 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1637 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Amman, 17 Dec (INA)—Dr. Ahmad Abu-Qurah, president of the National Society of the Jordanian Red Crescent, has discussed with Dr. 'Amid 'Abd-al-Hamid, director of international affairs at the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, the means to supply Iraq with medicines and baby food.

The INA correspondent in Amman said that, during the meeting, agreement was reached on certain executive steps to supply Iraq with medicines and baby food. He added that a shipment of medicines weighing 16.5 tonnes donated by the Dutch Red Cross has arrived in Amman as a gift to Iraq to help offer treatment to its children.

Lufthansa To Suspend Flights as of 31 Jan

JN1912065290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
19 Dec 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The German airline, Lufthansa, will suspend flights to and from Jordan as of Jan. 31 becoming the fifth airline to stop operations in the Kingdom, airline sources said Tuesday. Last week, in a written notice, the Lufthansa office in Amman informed its agents that flights will be discontinued as of Jan. 31, a local travel agent said Tuesday. Lufthansa said their decision was prompted by the "unstable situation in the Middle East," but other factors prevalent before the Gulf

crisis also influenced them, according to a foreign airline official. He said the closure decision was also prompted by strong competition, low revenues and high operating cost. "Before the crisis foreign airlines were complaining of the unjustifiably high operating cost, including the handling fees at Amman airport," the official said. "But after the crisis we had to deal with the war risk insurance which added about $20,000-$30,000 to the cost of each flight depending on the size of the airplane," the official added.

EC Bank Grants 16.5 Million For Projects

JN1812165690 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Amman, 18 Dec (PETRA)—The European Investment Bank has given a sum of about $16.5 million to support Jordanian small and medium sized industrial projects. This comes under the third protocol on financial cooperation signed between the Jordanian Government and the EC in accordance with which Jordan receives $100 million in aid during the period 1988-1991.

This was announced today in a press statement issued by the EC office in Amman.

Information Minister Stresses Need for Solution

JN1912073990 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2010 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din stressed the need for a negotiated settlement of the Gulf crisis. He said war in the Gulf would cause thousands of lives and thousands of injuries. Mr. 'Izz-al-Din told the American Cable News Network that the consequences of war would engulf the whole region.

[Begin recording] ['Izz-al-Din] ... about a very serious crisis. We are talking about thousands of dead and thousands of injured, and we are talking about destruction of the region in one way or another. So, I don't feel that it is possible to limit our options. No options should be limited to achieve peace. And of course, one should work within a framework, and since we have this framework we have to be very, very quick in grasping any opportunity to further the peace efforts. I think his majesty the king had a great effect in many way, and he had influenced so many positive decisions, among these decisions was basically the release of the foreigners from Iraq. So, I believe that was the message that we were trying to emphasis all through that you have to keep your options open with Iraq in order to talk to the Iraqis. And, I think it had been effective, because we have been talking to them, and we have been getting results as a result of that.

[Unidentified reporter] Do, you think the rest of the world has really understood that, and appreciated that?

['Izz-al-Din] Now, it is being a little bit understood. I can't say that it is fully understood. But, if one can go back to the first month after the crisis and how the position of Jordan was, and if one can really concentrate on what is the image of Jordan now, I think there is a great difference. I think we are a little bit understood now, of course not fully and we are still criticized sometimes but things have changed I think.

[Reporter] Well, Jordan has paid a fairly stiff price for that, hasn't it. I mean...

['Izz-al-Din interrupting] Yes.

[Reporter] ...economically, airlines closing down flight routes, tours not coming in, what ...

['Izz-al-Din interrupting] Yes, but what I would like to emphasis is that we are doing all this because of our national interests. We have a national interest not to have any military conflict in this area. And we had chosen a policy that we think would stop this military conflict. So, it was impossible from the beginning to be in the war camp, and if you choose not to be in the war camp, then I think our choice was the right one. What one would think that would bring a solution is to concentrate on a negotiation ... [correcting himself] a negotiated solution. It is very difficult to imagine that you are going to have results if you continue giving ultimatums, and if you continue giving demands. It is not the way to do things, and at the end of the day you might reach a deadlock. Actually, we are almost in a deadlock. But, if there would be an opening, and if the elements of a solution taking into consideration international legitimacy, a negotiated settlement, a linkage between the two major problems in the Middle East—the Gulf crisis and the Middle East Palestinian Question—and again to give Iraq an indication that its security would be preserved, then all this package could really enhance the possibility of a solution. [end recording]

King Visits, Addresses Armored Division

JN1812192590 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, paid a field visit today to the Royal Fourth Armored Division. His majesty was received by the commander of the division and ranking officers.

His majesty then visited one of the formations of the division where he was received by the commander of the formation and officers. The supreme commander was briefed on the progress of training in the formation.

His majesty the supreme commander continued his tour of units of the formation. He addressed members of the units, saying:

[Begin Husayn recording] Young men: I am happy to have this opportunity on this good day to be among you and with you here. The fact is that I long for such meetings; and I am very reassured [applause, chanting] about the attentiveness, resolution, and determination—

a phenomenon of which we are proud. This is enjoyed by every genuine Arab man on this good soil, in this homeland, and in this part of the great Arab homeland. [applause, chanting] This is of course our state in the Arab army, in the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The circumstances are difficult and tough. But their details and dimensions are known to all of us. All of us also know our duty toward future Arab generations to live, God willing, free and honorable on their land, [applause, chanting] throughout the great homeland.

The First Armored has a special position and noble history. You are now carrying the banner and rallying around it. [applause, chanting] God willing, your heads will always remain high. Almighty God champions the believers and grants them success. [end recording]

At the end of the visit, his majesty the supreme commander shook hands with all the members of these units.

Muslim Brotherhood Expected To Join Cabinet

JN1512081690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[By JORDAN TIMES staff writer Ghadir Tahir]

[Text] Amman—The biggest bloc in Parliament has failed to reach agreement on joining a new government and appears to be breaking up only two months after it was formed.

"They agreed to disagree," said an independent Islamist deputy, who is a member of the Parliamentary Unity Coalition.

"This means that each group in the coalition can negotiate with the government and any member of the coalition can join the government on his own," the deputy told the Jordan Times.

The 36-member coalition, which emerged as a strong force last month by ensuring that its nominee, Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, was elected speaker of the House, met late into the night Wednesday to decide about participation in the government but no consensus was reached either way, the deputy said.

Four members of the Muslim Brotherhood, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant, Humam Sa'id, Muhammad Abu-Faris and Ibrahim Khuraysat, and four fellow deputies from other blocs proposed a motion against joining the government. The issue was put to a vote and the eight deputies lost.

Parliamentary souces said that the leadership of the Brotherhood had already taken a decision to join the government and that the four Brotherhood deputies who were against the decision to join were trying "to override the leadership's decision."

The Islamist deputy said then there was a debate on whether to join the government of Mudar Badran by assuming portfolios in a limited reshuffle or press for a new government. Again, no consensus was reached, he said.

According to coalition rules, any decision by the group requires the votes of at least 75 per cent of the members.

Salim al-Zu'bi, a pan-Arab nationalist member of the coalition who voted against joining the government in a limited reshuffle, said the meeting showed a split "between and within the various blocs comprising the coalition."

Al-Zu'bi said that only 60 per cent of the members of the coalition participated in the voting. "The other 40 per cent either did not attend the meeting or walked out before the voting took place," the al-Ramtha deputy said.

Some coalition members attributed the deadlock to possibilities that their colleagues who did not attend were mostly in favour of joining the Badran cabinet.

"I would imagine that some of those who did not attend had legitimate reasons," said one deputy. "But I believe others wanted to avoid the embarrassment of the vote," added the deputy, who said he advocates setting up a new government. "It is remakable that on this particular issue, even the Muslim Brotherhood is clearly divided," he added.

Some members of the coalition have argued against joining the government in a "limited reshuffle." They are willing to participate if it is a new government "with or without Badran."

An independent member of the coalition, who argued in favour of joining the government "in a wide reshuffle," said that Jordan's "position cannot tolerate forming a new government with new policies and programmes."

Al-Zu'bi, who withheld confidence in Badran's government last January, said that most coalition members differed with the govenrment's programme and its position vis-a-vis issues such as the Palestinian problem, the decision to disengage from the West Bank, martial law, and agreements signed with the International Monetary Fund. Another deputy said that many members of the coalition believed that after the events of Aug. 2, they could not support the government programme, "hence the demand for the new agenda by the cabinet," he said.

The pan-Arab nationalists and independents in the coalition who did not give their vote of confidence in Badran's government last year "prefer to push for setting up a new government, with or without Badran, rather than have a limited reshuffle that would not change very much," said an independent deputy in the group.

Coalition sources said the pan-Arab nationalists and independents were dismayed that Badran held negotiations only with the Muslim Brotherhood and excluded the other partners in the coalition.

Informed sources said that the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood had asked for five portfolios for itself and at least three for coalition partners during negotiations with the premier.

One observer said that the prime minister appears to have successfully split the coalition by "striking deals with some of its members, confident that their desire for a cabinet post was stronger than their drive to keep the coalition."

After the apparent breakup of the coalition, deputies and observers expect the Muslim Brotherhood and individual members of the coalition to join the cabinet in a reshuffle expected by Thursday.

'Democratic Climate' Precede New Government

JN1612170190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
16 Dec 90 p 20

["Arab Opinion" column: "Party Government Before Party Formation" by Mahmud al-Rimawi]

[Text] As we know, the current House of Representatives was not elected on a party basis, and the 1989 elections were conducted under a law banning party activity, although party members were allowed to run for elections in their personal or political status.

Election campaigns were at that time a prelude to the spread of the democratic climate, and the actual approval of party activity—of course, without infringement on the security of the state. Also, the supervision and organization of the election process bear out the integrity and neutrality of the official apparatuses in the democratic process. However, because democratic practice at the time was a new experience, and because new parties came out in public, we cannot say that open and equal party competition prevailed in those elections. Consequently, we cannot say that the current House of Representatives reflects or represents the party and political map in the country, in spite of the integrity and honesty of the elections, to which everybody attests.

There is no harm in all of this as long as we are passing through a transitional phase, or let us say the first phase of democratic life. A question, however, can be raised here as to whether it is right to build on this phase and proceed from it to organize political life to form a new government or to make a broad cabinet reshuffle reflecting the percentage of party and political representation in the House of Representatives.

This question becomes more pressing because the National Charter will shortly see the light of day after its submission to a conference of national commissions. If party life is about to be launched and organized, what is the reason then for forming a new government to mirror the current situation in advance of the new situation that will develop within the next few months?

It stands to reason, and is more feasible, that Mr. Badran's government should be injected with new, qualified political elements that reflect, as much as possible, the new political map of the Jordanian society. But for the current government to be transformed into a government with party elements, the least which can be said about this is that it is premature and inconsistent with reality, for how can we form a government that includes party elements when party life has not yet been organized and launched?

This means, of necessity, dealing with the current transitional situation as a stable, established situation. This also means, of necessity, a form of intentional or unintentional alliance with a specific party approach—with my due respect to that party approach.

To be objective and on the safe side, the organization of party life should be left to take its legal and democratic aspects naturally. After that, new parliamentary elections can be conducted, under a new amended electoral law in which we will witness public, sound, and equal competition that will lead to the election of a new House of Representatives that represents the political, party, and social map of the country. In parallel with this, a government reflecting the reality of Parliament can be formed. In this way, we would be following the normal practice of democratic systems. Since this is going to take some time, and since there is a direct need, meanwhile, to expand the circle of political representation of Badran's government to make it closer to the current House of Representatives and the overall political trends in the country, and to meet the requirements of the transitional phase, injecting the current government with qualified political elements is the best response to current realities.

As for a wide-ranging shakeup that would create half-party or semi-party government in the absence of legal and public party life, it is difficult to understand or justify.

Coverage of Resignation of Al-Huss Government

Al-Hirawi Agrees to Resignation

NC1812181390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss will hand in a written resignation during the cabinet meeting tomorrow, barring new developments. President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Huss agreed to this yesterday.

According to sources concerned with the governmental consultations, after Dr. al-Huss' resigns, President Ilyas al-Hirawi will set dates for consultations with the heads of the parliamentary blocs and the deputies in order to choose a prime minister-designate. The designate will then consult with the deputies to agree on the program and shape of the new government as well as the distribution of its portfolios.

The same sources add that the prevailing mood is to expedite the formation of a new government in order to avoid a government crisis that the country might not be able to tolerate. The desire to expedite things, however, does not mean that this is an easy job, considering that what is needed is to pave the way for a reconciliation government with new powers and new faces that could work to consolidate calm, political stability, and understanding as a prelude to the stage of reconstruction and development.

Resignation Submitted 19 Dec

NC1912124190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1213 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Statement issued by the Directorate General of the Presidential Office in Beirut on 19 December]

[Text] At the end of the cabinet session held today, 19 December 1990, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss submitted the resignation of the government which he heads to his excellency the president of the republic. His excellency the president accepted the government's resignation, and thanked its head and the ministers for their cooperation and their efforts to fulfill the process of accord, salvation, and peace. He also paid tribute to the achievements made by the government on all levels during its term of office. His excellency the president asked the government to carry on as a caretaker government until a new government is formed.

Karami Expected To Head New Cabinet

PM1912111090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Beirut Expects Government of Accord Under Karami"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At the local political level, official Lebanese sources have described President al-Hirawi's visit to Damascus last Friday as al-Hirawi's most important visit to the Syrian capital since his election as president over a year ago.

The sources said that the Lebanese-Syrian summit was a complete success on all aspects and topics discussed. It was clearer than ever before that the understanding between al-Hirawi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was complete and comprehensive.

According to Lebanese sources close to Damascus, the summit concentrated on and dealt in depth with the question of the formation of the expanded government of accord which will succeed Prime Minister al-Huss' government.

It has been learned that Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi agreed in principle that the present government would begin to prepare to resign in order to open the way to the decrees entrusting a new prime minister with the task of forming the new cabinet after consultations between al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and after the necessary legislative consultations are held in accordance with the new constitutional amendment.

It has also been learned that the current intention in Beirut and Damascus is to ask Minister 'Umar Karami, brother of late Prime Minister Rashid Karami, to form the new cabinet, and that al-Hirawi and the Syrian leadership are convinced that Prime Minister al-Huss is not interested in forming the new cabinet, for health reasons.

Agreement on Karami was reached after Damascus managed to persuade Karami to withdraw his objection to a cabinet under his premiership but including some of his and his late brother's main adverseries, including Samir Ja'ja' who Syria and Lebanon reportedly agree should be one of six ministers of state representing the six main militia leaderships in Lebanon.

Some sources maintain that one of the reasons why Karami withdrew his objection was "information" passed to him by Damascus, after confessions by Lebanese officers detained in the Syrian capital, concerning the assassination of Prime Minister Karami and the parties accused of planning his assassination.

These sources expect legislative consultations to begin in the new year, followed by the designation of 'Umar Karami as prime minister of a government of accord that is supposed to comprise 30 ministers including the leaders of the six militias, who will be ministers of state.

It is understood from these sources that the next government will include people who will be ministers for the first time, but that it will also include ministers from the current government including Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, George Sa'adah, 'Ali al-Khalil, Muhsin Dallul, Nazih al-Bizri, and Michel Sasin. [passage omitted]

Karami Accepts Position

NC1912063590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has stated that Minister 'Umar Karami will head a new broad-based government. He added that the new government will have four goals:

Deploying the Army in the south, disbanding the militias, appointing new deputies, and establishing special relations with Syria.

He said that the new government will bring together representatives of all parties. It will constitute a genuine national assembly, bringing together pacifists and combatants in a true national melting pot. He noted that the formation of a broad- based government has both advantages and disadvantages.

Minister Karami left for Damascus yesterday where he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Before he left for the Syrian capital, Karami met in Beirut with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

Resistance Groups Carry Out Operations in South

NC1912100690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] A unit from the Lebanese Resistance Battalions-Amal has attacked a joint position of the Israeli occupation forces and agent Lahd militia on al-Shumariyah hill with rockets. A fierce 30-minute clash ensued, which resulted in the destruction of a 12.7-mm machine gun. The occupation forces' artillery then shelled Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, wounding five people and causing heavy property damage. The wounded were taken to the hospital for treatment.

At 0800 today, a joint Israeli-Lahd militia force advanced toward the al-Litani River basin. Another unit from the Resistance Battalions detonated a number of explosive charges, killing or wounding a large number of enemy troops. The occupation forces subsequently sent heavy armored vehicles and troop reinforcements to the scene, and a clash took place between the resistance fighters and the occupation forces which lasted until 0900.

Druze List Lebanese Forces' Weapons Caches

NC1512082790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces continue to maintain 27 weapons caches and have also kept a number of vehicles and personnel carriers in buried depots.

Here is a list of these caches and their locations:

A weapons cache in the al-'Inayah school and church in the al-Rumalah-al-Ashrafiyah area;

A weapons cache in al-Matahin on the left of the al-Nahr-al- Biddawi highway;

A weapons cache opposite al-Ra'i al-Salih in the building directly behind the church;

An ammunition cache in the (Jeaufil) building;

An ammunition cache between the old building of the Voice of Lebanon radio and the new building of the Phalangist Party branch office in al-Ashrafiyah;

An ammunition cache opposite the Dayr al-Nasirah;

An ammunition cache in a building near the Justice Ministry office in Hayy al-Siryan;

An ammunition cache in the al-Siryan club;

An ammunition cache in the former building of the National Fund opposite the Alexander Hotel;

An ammunition cache in Tal'at al-Siyufi, around 200 meters to the right from the Aratel Company where there is an entrance for a large depot opposite the first junction on the left;

An ammunition cache in the Lebanon Electricity company building;

An ammunition cache inside the Baydun barracks in al-Birjawi;

An ammunition cache in the uninhabitated building just before the Abu-Hamad (?building) in al-Ashrafiyah;

An ammunition cache in the concrete room under the Charles Hilu bridge;

An ammunition cache in the Pierre al-Jumayyil Cooperative in al-Biddawi;

An underground ammunition cache in the Mar Marun Church in al-Jummayzah;

An ammunition cache near Karim Baqraduni's house;

An cache with ammunition and personnel carriers in the social security building, Tal'at al-Siyufi;

An ammunition cache in the Cats building in al-Jummayzah;

A weapons and ammunition cache in the shelter of the building housing the al-Ashrafiyah branch of al-Zahhar shops;

An ammunition cache in the shelter of the Empire Cinema on the contact lines in Beirut near al-Sayfi in al-Ashrafiyah;

A weapons cache on the lower floors of the Pyrotex building in al-Jummayzah on the route leading from the electricity company to al-Jummayzah;

A weapons cache on the lower three floors of the Mar Antonius building that is behind Freres College in al-Jummayzah;

A weapons cache in al-Ashrafiyah inside a tile and marble factory behind the Mar Mitri church cemeteries;A weapons cache in al-Ashrafiyah on Tal'at al-Siyufi opposite the Tal-'at Karm al-Zaytun where a church has been newly built halfway up the road—the cache is right under the church;

A weapons cache in al-Ashrafiyah near Sham'un's old house where a grocery store belonging to a person from the al-'Asali family is also located; and

A cache for containers containing six personnel carriers which is buried in the al-Sayyidah area of al-Ashrafiyah.

Al-Asad Receives U.S. Official, Ambassador

JN1812173190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] At 1730 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Wayne Owens, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian attended the meeting.

TIMES on Understanding of U.S. 'Commitments'

JN1812123690 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 12 Dec 90 p 5

[Column by Walid Shihadah: "The Real Approach to Peace"]

[Text] Syria has continued consultations with the United States in the light of the Geneva Summit talks held between President Hafiz al-Asad and President George Bush concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially as the Security Council is due to endorse a draft resolution calling for an internatinal conference and for protecting the Palestinians from the criminal Israeli practices in the occupied land. These contacts and consultations have resulted in an understanding of US commitments which can be summed up in a position that tilts towards what Syria has been calling for long. The two sides converge on the idea that a just, durable, and comprehensive peace must find its way to the Middle East through an active process in which all parties to the conflict will take part. The American side pledged support for the convening of a properly structured international conference at the appropriate time to reach this just and durable peace, and said it would express this stand at the Security Council discussions.

It is believed, however, that there is a strong tendency towards the endorsement of such a draft resolution, now that Israeli violence against the Palestinians has taken a more bitter form, and mere suspicion is enough for an Israeli soldier to open fire at innocent Arabs. Towns and villages in the West Bank and Gaza are besieged, curfews clamped, and the simplest principles of human rights are not respected. The Israeli authorities are in fact in pursuit of their evil designs of expansion and building more settlements to absorb the new immigrants, rejecting all resolutions passed by the international community, the most recent of these stands was Shamir's statement which, provocative as it is, stresses the intention of establishing "Greater Israel". If any thing, this would mean more expropriation of Arab land and more Palestinians made homeless.

The situation in the occupied Arab land is more serious than ever, so serious that an action must be taken by the international community. The United States seems the only power in the Council that has so far been hesitant regarding this draft resolution. It is time the US abandoned hesitation and took a clear stand as was revealed through consultations between the Syrian and American sides. It is time the US proved its credibility when the question of peace and security is put before the Council. It is time it proved the inadmissibility of acquisition of land by force, and the Arab territories are acquired by Israel through aggression and the use of force.

There is no doubt that if the US has really committed itself to those principles, and expressed this stand at the Security Council, then it can be safely said that a step has been taken in the direction of peace, and for a just settlement that guarantees the security of all countries in the Middle East, if Israel is indeed concerned about its own security.

Kuwaiti Minister Arrives in Damascus 17 Dec

JN1812090090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub, Kuwaiti minister of state for National Assembly affairs and minister of information, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Damascus this evening. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Information Minister Muhammad Salman.

The Kuwaiti minister told journalists on arrival: I am glad to visit Syria, the land of Arabism, to convey to its leadership, government, and people the greetings and love of the Kuwaiti leadership, people, and government in appreciation of Syria's virtuous positions and support for the Kuwaiti cause. Syria, he said, has consistently been supportive of crucial pan-Arab issues. He noted that the Syrian position on the Kuwaiti issue has from the beginning been against the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait. This is not anything new, he said, as Syria has always adopted firm Arab positions. He said that history always proved the soundness of Syria's positions, which are in line with its pan-Arab principles.

Dr. al-Ya'qub said his visit is part of the coordination and exchange of views on some media matters with Information Minister Muhammad Salman with a view to laying the main foundations for future media cooperation.

Asked about Arab moves concerning the Gulf crisis, he stressed that all Arab efforts must be based on the resolutions of the Security Council and the extraordinary Arab summit, which provide for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory and the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti government.

Asked whether peaceful or military methods should be used to resolve the Kuwaiti crisis, the Kuwaiti information minister said: We hope that the peaceful approach will be the ideal solution to this problem so that the Arab force can be maintained and the optimal Arab solidarity can be achieved. He added: We also hope Iraq would respond to the repeated peace calls made by a number of Arab leaders to bring about security and stability in the region so that we can avoid a destructive war the extent of which only God knows.

Meets With Information Minister

JN1812191290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Damascus—Information Minister Muhammad Salman received this morning Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub, Kuwaiti minister of state for National Assembly affairs and information minister, and his delegation. Assistant Information Minister Adib Ghanam and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim attended.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Salman spoke about Syria's firm and principled pan-Arab positions on a large number of Arab issues and about its adherence to these positions, especially on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, under any circumstances. He said: Our position is based on principles, and it has been drawn up and strengthened by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad since the first moments of the invasion. We denounced this aggression as an unacceptable act on both the Arab and international level.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Salman added, had negative impact on Arab solidity at a time when Arab efforts had virtually succeeded in uniting Arab ranks. The invasion dissipated these efforts, and, consequently, served the Zionist schemes. It pushed the Palestine question and the valiant intifadah in the occupied territories to the back seat of international concern.

The information minister went on to say: We need Arab media action to help deepen awareness about this invasion, its negative implications, and its destructive effects on the Arab nation and the Iraqi people in the first place.

The Kuwaiti information minister then spoke, paying tribute to Syria's firm and principled Arab positions and to the wise leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, whose views and positions on crucial issues have always been proved right. He added: His excellency is a man of principles, holding fast to his national and pan-Arab positions. The Kuwaiti minister praised Syria's rejection of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and said our cooperation with Syria has a strategic dimension in all media, political, economic, social, and other aspects. He concluded: We hope that the invasion will be eradicated, that Iraq will abandon its injustice, and that the region will return to normal so that the Arab nation can enjoy a bright future, with the liberation of the occupied Arab territories from the Zionists as its top priority.

During the meeting, relations in the information field and ways to bolster and promote them in the interests of the Arab peoples of Syria and Kuwait and the entire Arab nation were discussed. Cooperation and programs to achieve this have been set. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi, Yemeni Minister Discuss Cooperation

JN1812125190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1000 today Dr. Ahmad Salim al-Qadi, minister of higher education in the Republic of Yemen. The meeting was attended by Dr. Kamal Sharaf, minister of higher education, and Mr. Muhammad 'Abduh Shutfah, Yemeni ambassador in Damascus.

During this meeting, the Yemeni minister conveyed the greetings and good wishes of Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas to Mr. al-Zu'bi who also conveyed his greetings and good wishes to his counterpart.

During the meeting, talks centered on relations of cooperation between Syria and Yemen and the steps that are being realized in the various fields, especially in the educational and cultural fields.

Talks also dealt with developing means of cooperation in the field of exchanging university, education, and research expertise and bolstering meetings and contacts that lead to expanding and deepening this cooperation between the two fraternal states.

Cabinet Discusses Agreements With Egypt

JN1812190190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a session at 1100 today under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Al-Zu'bi explained the results of his talks in Cairo during his visit there at the head of a Syrian delegation. He also gave a briefing on the results of the meetings of the higher Syrian-Egyptian joint committee and the cooperation agreements concluded in various fields. Emphasis was laid on the positive and important steps that have resulted from these talks and meetings regarding political coordination and economic integration between Syria and Egypt. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Acting President Assures Free, Fair Elections

BK1812163490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, has categorically said that top priority of his interim government is to hold free and fair elections for a true representative parliament within the schedule already announced. He was talking to a delegation of sammilita sanskritigya [cultural workers] in Dhaka this morning. The acting president said his administration is firm to make the 2 March polls neutral, free and fair. He sought cooperation from all sections of society to help his intertim government hold free and fair polls in the greater interest of transition to democracy.

The delegation discussed with him various problems obtaining in the cultural field and demanded their immediate solution. They demanded conversion of the state-controlled radio and television into full autonomous organization so that they could play a neutral role from now. They also demanded of the acting president to formally reintroduce the orginal name Bangladesh Betar instead of Radio Bangladesh. It also demanded immediate annulment of the report of the cultural commission, the 1876 Drama Performance Act, the controversial Films Society Act, and the Press and Publication Ordinance of 1973. Their demands also included dissolution of the Bangla Academy Act, reintroduction of the democratic in silpakala [craft] academy and shishu [children] academy, the enquiry into the functioning and source of the income and expenditure of [word indistinct] and immediate trial of the custed president Ershad and his accomplices.

The acting president assured them of best of attention by his interim administration to solve the problems.

Opposition Leaders Meet Japanese Delegation

BK1812164090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The Awami League chief in a statement in Dhaka today called upon all patriotic and honest government officials to work without fear and favor to establish people's rule. Sheikh Hasina said the administrative machinery must be made dynamic and effective for continuing uninterrupted economic activities in the country and production in mills and factories. She called for maintaining peace, security, and good relations at all levels for the country's current transition to democracy.

A delegation of Japanese officials called on Sheikh Hasina at Banga Bhavan this morning. Japanese Ambassador Takeo Iguchi, was also present.

Later the Awami League president and leader of the eight-party alliance left Dhaka for Brunei Darussalam on a private visit. Sheikh Hasina is expected to return home on Friday [21 December].

Former Premier Reportedly Escapes to India

BK1812160890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] According to reports, the former prime minister, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, has fled to India through Tripura border after the fall of the Ershad regime. Giving the news, BBC says that two village people helped Kazi Zafar Ahmed to escape to India near Agartala.

India

Shekhar Concerned Over Pakistan's Nuclear Program

BK1812124990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister has expressed concern over Pakistan's nuclear program and hoped that Islamabad will not risk the terrible consequences that will necessarily follow a nuclear misadventure.

Addressing the parliamentary consultative committee of the Defense Ministry in New Delhi today, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the government is fully aware of the developments in this regard. He assured the members that there need not be any apprehension in the minds of the people. The prime minister observed that with increasing understanding with neighbors and consequent lowering of tensions, there should be no cause for worry about the country's defense. However, the defense forces are fully alive to the ground realities and maintain effective preparedness at all times. He expressed the hope that the official and ministerial level discussions between India and Pakistan will further contribute to a better understanding of each other's point of view. He said the process has been set on motion with his recent talks with the Pakistan prime minister.

Dubey Says Pakistan Violates Simla Agreement

BK1912053490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] India has told Pakistan that its continued assistance to subversion and terrorism in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir clearly violates the Simla Agreement. The foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, who called on the Pakistan president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, last evening categorically stated that the core issue that needed to be urgently tackled is the situation created by Islamabad's unhindered aid to secessionists. He urged to Pakistan Government to put an immediate end to such activities. Mr. Dubey also made it clear that the communal situation in India is its internal affair. He said that the manner in which it is being handled is being appreciated by all, including the press in the Middle East, and the Gulf nations.

The foreign secretary expressed his deep regret over the role of Pakistan media in projecting the situation in an exaggerated and inaccurate manner. Mr. Dubey drew the attention of Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan to the reports

carried in Pakistani press and television saying that the Taj Mahal in Agra has been hit by a missile and the house of Indian cricket captain, Azharuddin, in Hyderabad has been attacked. Denying these reports, the foreign secretary made it very clear to Islamabad that such rumors will make the already complex situation worse and will have implications that would go beyond our borders.

Sikh Politician Wants Peace Talks Agenda

BK1512160290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1327 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Dec 15 (AFP)—India's leading Sikh politician urged the government Saturday to come up with an agenda for talks to settle a bloody Sikh separatist conflict in the northern state of Punjab, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Simranjit Singh Mann told a news conference in the state capital Chandigarh he welcomed Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar's "conciliatory approach" toward the problem, PTI said. "But deeds must precede words," he was quoted as saying. "We (Sikhs) have had a very bad experience in the past of going by words alone."

The maverick politician with a reputation for leaning toward militancy asked the government to offer a detailed agenda in "black and white" to his Akali Dal Party so it could decide whether to talk.

He also asked the government to apologise in parliament for what he called the "genocide of Sikhs" and for the June 1984 army assault on Sikhdom's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Such a step would help assuage the "hurt Sikh psyche," PTI quoted him as saying.

Mr. Mann reportedly said he was "happy to know" Mr. Shekhar agreed to discuss the Sikhs' "right of self-determination."

His comments followed a Sikh militant demand that any peace talks should focus on Khalistan ("Land of the Pure")—the name of a theocratic homeland the militants want carved out of Punjab, a rich agricultural state on India's border with Pakistan. Violence linked to the Khalistan campaign has left more than 3,340 people dead this year, the highest annual toll since Sikh separatism took off in 1983.

Mr. Shekhar, 63, has said often since becoming prime minister on November 10 that he was ready to talk peace with anyone. During a visit Friday to Chandigarh he repeated the offer. "There has been no contact from either side," he was quoted as saying. "Both sides should try and understand each other. Once the militants contact us and express their readiness to talk to us, we shall try to dispel their apprehensions."

"It is not only the Sikhs but others too have been demanding the right to self-determination. When the demands of others can be settled through negotiations, why cannot the case of Punjab be settled accordingly," he asked. [passage omitted]

Malhotra Sworn In as New Governor of Punjab

BK1812102090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] General O.P. Malhotra has been sworn in as the new governor of Punjab. Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice J.V. Gupta administered the oath of office and secrecy at a function in Raj Bhawan [Governor's House] in Chandigarh today. General Malhotra succeeds Mr. Birendra Verma who has been appointed the governor of Himachal Pradesh. Prominent among those present at the swearing-in-ceremoney included the chief minister of Haryana, Mr. Hukum Singh.

Official Says 110 Killed in Hyderabad-Area Riots

BK1712161590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] The new chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Janaradhan Reddy, has declared that political interference in adminstration, particularly in the matter of law and order, will not be allowed. He was addressing a news conference in Hyderabad today soon after his assumption of the office of chief minister. He said the government will take permanent measures to avoid clashes in the name of religion and to maintain communal harmony in the state. Mr. Reddy disclosed that in the recent communal riots in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad 110 people were killed and more than 300 injured.

Earlier, Mr. Janaradhan Reddy visited the riot-hit areas of Hyderabad to make a first-hand assessment of the situation.

Meanwhile, the law and order situation in the old city area of Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy District is limping back to normalcy with no reports of untoward incidents.

Nagaland Chief Minister Wins Vote of Confidence

BK1812093490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The Nagaland chief minister, Mr. Vamuzo, has won the vote of confidence in the assembly. The one-day session of the assembly convened to enable the chief minister to seek the vote of confidence was marked by the absence of all the Congress-I members. The Congress-I stayed away in protest against the speaker's decision to disqualify 10 Nagaland People's Council [NPC] members and five Congress-I members. The house passed by voice vote a motion moved by the NPC member, Mr. T.A. Ngullie, expressing confidence in the council of ministers.

However, the Congress-I-sponsored no confidence motion against the speaker was not taken up because of

the absence of the mover of the motion. Only 45 members were eligible to attend today's session after disqualification of the 15 members on Sunday by the speaker. Of the 45, the ruling NPC has 23 members, the Congress-I 19, and there are three unattached members.

Maoists Kidnap Four Officials in Andhra Pradesh

BK1812160590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] belonging to Satyam group kidnapped four state government officials, including one bank manager and a sarpanch [village headman] in Nalgonda District yesterday. They were demanding the release of their sympathizers who have been arrested by the police on different charges.

Meanwhile, according to the district collector, some activists have been released on bail.

Court Refuses To Stop Bofors Case Proceeding

BK1912091690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] The Delhi High Court today dismissed a petition seeking quashing of the FIR [first information report] filed by the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] in the Bofors gun deal. The court also dismissed a plea of the Janata Dal, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and the Congress-S seeking intervention.

Giving his ruling in a packed court room, Mr. Justice M.K. Chawla, said the petitioner, a Delhi lawyer has no locus standi in the case and hence his petition is not maintainable. He, however, pointed that the FIR filed by the CBI in January this year in a trial court has a number of irregularities. The judge said he is issuing a suo moto notice to the CBI and the government to show cause why the proceedings pending in the court of special judge, Mr. V.S. Agarwal, not be quashed.

In his 11-page judgment, Justice Chawla observed that the CBI should have exhausted all remedies before the joint parliamentary committee before launching proceedings in the court. He said on the face of it, the CBI has not disclosed any offence in its FIR. He also said that the court special judge has no jurisdiction to entertain request for issuing letters rogatory. Justice Chawla said the CBI is not a legally constituted force which can be entrusted with the investigation.

The judge later began hearing the CBI counsel in the suo moto notice of the court.

Stones Thrown During V.P Singh's Address

BK1812163690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has called upon the people to fight unitedly the communal forces which are out to destroy the secular concept of the Indian constitution. Addressing a public meeting at Gorakhpur today, he said the implementation of the Mandal Commission report [on reservation of jobs for lower castes] by his government was a move to provide social justice to the downtrodden.

Earlier, some people tried to disturb the meeting by pelting stones. Mr. Ajit Singh, Mr. Sharad Yadav, and some others sustained minor injuries in the incident.

Commentary Notes Need for Debt-Coping Measures

BK1912112490 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 19 Dec 90

[S.K. Nayyar commentary]

[Text] Some economists have for some time been painting a grim scenario for India's debt position, concluding that India is heading for a debt trap. It is true that the country's external debt has been growing over the years and current estimates say that it will be over 100 crores during the financial year 1990-91. The critics forget that the desirability or non-desirability of the borrowings depends on how a country makes the use of amount borrowed. If the loan is used in a constructive way and if returns from such investments are higher than the repayment obligations, the debt is certainly desirable because it liquidates itself.

The Government of India has been even giving heavy dose of taxation to its people to collect more resources from within leading to a lesser dependence on foreign borrowings. In a bid to mobilize internal resources and to discourage import, the Government of India has this week given a dose of excise and customs duties which will raise an additional amount 21, 750 million rupees from customs duties alone in the current financial year. The imports levied this week are to net 13,400 million rupees and will be in addition to 8,350 million mobilized through the budget for 1990-91. These measures taken together with the Gulf surcharge on incorporate incomes, the hike in petroleum product prices, and other administered prices along with the resource mobilization undertaken by the 1990-91 budget constitute together the largest resource mobilizing exercise. This will help reduce the size of the budget deficit apart from making the imports costlier. To restore fiscal balance, the government is likely to impose additional excise levies on a number of items very soon to net an additional 10,000 million rupees in a full year. The possibility of levy called expenditure tax on items of conspicuous consumption is not ruled out. Some of the electronic items like VCRs, high-prices music systems, automobiles and air conditioners may be covered under this levy. The new export

policy likely to be announced soon will be fashioned as to give a selective thrust to the promotion of the export specific products. All this will go a long way in raising foreign exchange resources to meet investment programs of the government, apart from reducing the gap in the deficit financing.

The components of India's external debts include external assistance—both concessional and multilateral—IMF loans commercial borrowings, non-resident Indians deposits, short-term liabilities, including supplied credits. It is gratifying to note that India is utilizing the borrowings for constructive way so that returns from such investments are higher than the repayment obligation. She is good using the borrowing amounts for consumption, except for importing of crude oil or some petroleum products. That is why India has never been considered as a severely indebted country by the World Bank. In fact, India does not figure in any of the full groups of debtor countries listed by the World Bank. Because of constant growth, India has been meeting the obligations of debt servicing to the satisfaction of foreign governments and international financial institutions. The Economic Advisory Council has, in fact, pointed out, that there is no threat to solvency or credit worthiness of the country. India is far from the tragic situation of finding itself in a debt trap. The problem in India is now the burden of debt servicing, reducing the room for maneuver on the development front. Proper handling of this problem can take care of it. The example of South Korea is good enough to follow. It got away from the debt trap by spectacular rise in exports. It is true that there is no room for complacency as the low exchange reserves and rise in import bills are warning signals in addition to growth in debt servicing.

The increase in oil price after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has made the problem more serious. India's access to concessional aid has also become more difficult compelling India to raise more internal resources to meet its financial obligations. India will have to work on development plans that are export-oriented. Savings inside the country, particularly public savings, will have to be stepped up significantly so that government gets enough money for investment purposes. There will have to be some curbs on the consumption of petrol and petroleum products to keep the import bill within our financial reach. It is hoped that the International Monetary Fund will also help India in tiding over its oil import bill.

Technology for Use in Missile Warheads Developed

BK1812112490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] India has joined a select band of countries having Milli Meter Wave—MMW—techniques and system of wireless transmission. Only seven countries, including the United States, Germany, and Britain have acquired this technology so far. Developed by a dedicated group of scientists of the Defense Electronics Applications Laboratory—DEAL—Dehradun, the technology would be utilized in missile warheads.

Briefing newspersons about the developments in this particular field in New Delhi today, the director of DEAL, Mr. V. Prakash Pandlas said that even several potential applications such as portable radars, nonpac satcom terminals, missile heatseekers, smart munition, collision avoidance, all weather imagery, and wide band communication systems.

Location of Bangladesh's Ahmed Said Unknown

BK1812161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the government has no information about the former Bangladesh prime minister, Mr. Zafar Ahmed, having taken refuge in India. Replying to questions by newsmen, he said New Delhi is checking with the authorities about the report.

Aid for Displaced Sri Lankans Announced

BK1812145190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] India today announced its willingness to contribute $685,000 in kind and $1,000 in cash for relief and rehabilitation of displaced people in the northeastern province of Sri Lanka. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the Indian Government has informed the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees that it will start relief work, as soon as the procedural and other formalities are completed. The relief program will cover more than 50,000 displaced people.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Warns U.S. Against Attack

LD1812141290 Tehran IRNA in English 1305 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today voiced the Islamic Republic's strong opposition to a U.S. attack against Iraq. Nevertheless, he said, "the responsibility for this rests with the Iraq regime."

"We are feeling very uneasy over the fact that the Iraqi people may be hurt by the Americans. The trips being made by Iran's foreign minister nowadays are aimed at preventing the outbreak of a war," the president told a group of college students in a question-answer session.

Velayati just concluded a visit to Qatar, Oman and UAE [United Arab Emirates] and arrived in Sweden today. Earlier he visited several other regional countries, including Syria and Turkey. He was also to visit Moscow

which was postponed due to "heightened diplomatic activities" in the Soviet capital with regards to the Persian Gulf crisis.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said "the Iraqi regime has perpetrated an obscene act by invading Kuwait and this invasion is not acceptable to Iran."

"Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait is the only solution to the Persian Gulf crisis," the president made it clear.

Asked about the procedure of swapping the remaining war prisoners between Iran and Iraq and the fate of those missing in action, Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied:

"Despite Iraq's claim that no other Iranian war prisoners remain in that country, we possess documents indicating that some POWs kept in Iraq are alive."

He explained that the documents included the recorded voice and pictures of the Iranian POWs aired on the Iraqi radio and television.

He said that an Iranian delegation has visited Baghdad twice to investigate the issue but the Iraqis have evaded answering. Once the fate of Iranian POWs and MIAs is clarified, the POWs swap would be resumed, he said.

Khamene'i Warns U.S. 'Will Not Benefit' in Gulf

LD1912135890 Tehran IRNA in English 1256 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 19, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i, said here today that "the Americans will not benefit from the presence of several thousand of U.S. servicemen in the deserts of Saudi Arabia." Ayatollah Khamene'i who was addressing a group of visiting students of colleges and theological schools said the situation in the Persian Gulf is indication that "the lifeblood and the bottle of life of such governments as that of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait is in the hands of the United States." He added "today each and every one of such powers are looking to the big powers and to their decisions and are not concerned about right, and conscience." The leader of the Islamic revolution added: "Obviously the United States treads a path to ensure its own arrogant interests and those of the oil companies and multinational companies." He said "under the present circumstances all, except the people and Government of Iran, are serving the interests of a corrupt, anti-human, and ungodly universal entity."

Alleged Change in Soviet Gulf Policy Criticized

NC1612141390 Paris AFP in English 1328 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec 16 (AFP)—Iranian newspapers on Sunday blasted what they called Moscow's change of policy on the Gulf and accused Soviet officials of seeking to redraw the map of the region at the expense of Iraq.

The condemnation came a day after a last-minute announcement that a planned visit to Moscow by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, due to start Saturday, was being postponed.

Iranian newspapers maintained that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had said Friday in Ankara that Iraq's territorial integrity was not absolutely guaranteed.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI daily, considered close to Muslim religious hardliners, strongly criticized what it called the change of Soviet policy and said it was a concession tc the West.

"Moscow is seeking a solution to its own political and social problems and hopes to obtain in return long-term credits from NATO," it said, accusing what it called the "oppression front" of aiming to "swallow the wealth of the Muslim world."

"It's true the regime in Baghdad has committed a serious mistake by occupying Kuwait," it said. "But we can't punish this aggression by carving up Iraq, since we would be punishing the Iraqi people unfairly."

It said the statements attributed to Mr. Shevardnadze amounted to "a green light" for a an attack on the northern Iraqi oil fields of Karkuk in the Kurdistan region.

"Any geographic change in the region will be to the detriment of the Muslim world," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI insisted. "We must prevent the division of Iraq, just like that of Kuwait."

Another newspaper ABRAR, said Mr. Shevardnadze's statements in Turkey "contradicted earlier declarations by Soviet leaders" and were a reflection of the amount of pressure being exerted on Moscow by the West.

TEHRAN TIMES Views U.S. Policy on Gulf

NC1412165590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in an interview with French television said the chances of war in the Persian Gulf are "50-50." Saddam added that the results of the proposed talks with the U.S. will depend on whether U.S. President George Bush is truly sincere or whether he is doing it just for show.

The Iraqi president has asked that the ultimatum given to Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait by January 15, 1991 be extended to March 25.

What can be evinced from Saddam's statements is that he is attempting to buy more time for himself. This is especially true because the period of time between January 15 and the end of February could be extremely critical and fateful for Baghdad. Saddam has said nothing about withdrawing from Kuwait.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has said that under present circumstances there is dire need for unity among American statesmen. The fact is that rifts

and divisions among the centers of power within the U.S. has become wider and wider each day, and this gives hope to Saddam.

If the anti-war demonstrations in various states in America (like the one recently in Boston) continue to spread and become more widespread, it would be very difficult for President Bush to order an attack against Iraq after the January 15 deadline.

In our part of the world, the moot issue for America's traditional allies in the region, like Saudi Arabia and the littoral states is the posibility that Baghdad and Washington may reach a political settlement without any serious harm being inflicted to the Iraqi war machinery. In such a case, it is suggested how could these countries continue their political existence with peace of mind.

Even though these small countries have apparently declared their support for Bush's peace proposals, they haven't been able to hide their concern in private diplomatic circles. These countries are particularly afraid of the time when foreign forces present in the Persian Gulf will be forced to leave the region.

Editorial Warns Against U.S.-Iraqi Deal

NC1412171490 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 6 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Persian Gulf Crisis and the Security Council"]

[Text] The Persian Gulf crisis has entered a new stage after the United Nations Security Council passed its 12th resolution against Iraq. Before the passing of Resolution 678 giving Iraq until 15 January to withdraw from Kuwait or face war, the U.S. had refused any direct talks with Iraq but after the resolution was passed it suddenly announced that high-ranking officials of the two countries would negotiate.

The U.S. has proposed that the permanent ambassadors of the two countries to the United Nations be present at Washington-Baghdad negotiations apparently in a bid to remove any suspicion about the existence of a behind-the-curtain deal between them. The U.S. actually tries, through intimidation and alluring, to show that there is a real international coalition against Iraq. So far, a large amount of money has been paid to such countries as the Soviet Union, Turkey, Syria and Egypt with a view to win their support, and Washington believes that such expendings would bring it more profits in the future.

In view of the inclination of the countries involved in the Persian Gulf crisis towards taking concession cannot be satisfied easily [as published], it seems that with the passage of time the international coalition formed against Iraq since its August 2 occupation of Kuwait would become shakier. Citing as an example, one can make a mention of the latest Security Council resolution which was for the first time passed with 12 votes for and one abstention by China. The Chinese foreign minister was the only foreign minister to visit Iraq during the four-month long crisis in the Persian Gulf.

Reasons behind Washington's proposal to hold direct talks with Iraq can be summarized as follow:

To keep the existing international coalition behind the U.S. and control the West's public opinion.

With the passage of time, opposition to Washington's war policies in the Persian Gulf is mounting both among governments and peoples and among influential groups in the U.S.

In an effort to curb such opposition and to pose as a peace-loving government, the Bush Administration had to take a tactical diplomatic measure.

To deter an Iraqi attack the recent Security Council resolution is viewed as a kind of declaration of war against Iraq against which the latter deems it appropriate to take deterrent measures. Because there existed a possibility of an Iraqi attack on Saudi-based multinational forces after the Security Council approved its Resolution 678, the U.S. embarked on an diplomatic measure to strip Iraq of an excuse to attack and also provide forces and equipment necessary for an victorious assault in the middle of next Christian month.

Both the U.S. and Iraq are highly concerned over the repercussions of an extensive military confrontation. In the opinion of the Americans, a severe confrontation would bring instability to the Middle East, aggravate anti-American sentiments in the region, add to Iran's military strength, and cast doubts on replacements of the ruling regime in Iraq with a dependent government.

Therefore, the likelihood of a behind-the-scene compromise between Iraq and the U.S. still exists. The deal is unlikely to include ceding part of the Kuwaiti territory to Iraq as the move would be considered a retreat by the international community before Baghdad. Therefore, such a deal would be reached secretly and the Baghdad government could receive huge financial support in return for its withdrawal from Kuwait.

An advantage of such a deal for the U.S. would be the creation of a regional security system on the pretext of instability and insecurity in the region as well as the likelihood of renewed adventurism by the Iraqi regime. This is its turn would require U.S. military buildup in the Persian Gulf coastal states. Then by bringing the oil exports of the region under its control, the U.S. would start blackmailing the world countries.

To prove Washington's evil intentions, it would suffice to refer to yesterday's remarks of the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell who said "I think in the future there will be a need for a greater American presence rather than a lesser American presence (in the Persian Gulf)...to ensure stability in the region".

So if the regional states and Europe make any negligence such a deal would take place in all likelihood. It would however be detrimental to the Persian Gulf sheikhdoms because they would no longer be tolerated and the U.S. would have to lead them towards "guided democracies". Europe would also suffer because it would have to give in to the U.S. blackmail in order to receive oil from the region. Such a deal therefore should not be allowed to materialize as it would only contribute to the region's instability.

Success of Piruzi-1 Naval Maneuvers Updated

NC1712162090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] The Piruzi-1 naval maneuvers continue successfully in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. Our correspondent reports on the success of the second phase of the joint naval maneuvers by the Armed Forces Navy and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC]:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Piruzi-1, the joint naval maneuvers, continue successfully. Last night divers from the Islamic Republic of Iran's naval forces and the [IRGC] participated in underwater defense operations.

According to the joint tactical headquarters of the Piruzi-1 maneuvers, during this phase of the exercises the naval units of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the IRGC vigilantly conducted a series of preemptive tactics designed to identify the military operations of the divers of the hypothetical enemy who had attacked the units stationed in the operational area, intending to destroy our floating units. Using advanced submarine equipment, warships, and floating units, they captured and destroyed the hypothetical enemies, foiling the enemy (?unit) with special expertise.

The subsequent phases of the joint naval maneuvers Piruzi-1 are still in progress. All of the floating units and flight units of the Islamic Republic of Iran's naval forces, and the IRGC in the operational area are participating. The results will be announced to our dear compatriots in later newscasts. [end recording]

More on Maneuvers

LD1812115590 Tehran IRNA in English 1117 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Province, Dec. 18, IRNA—The Air Force MiG-29 fighters and helicopters shelled hypothetical enemy islands south of the Persian Gulf in the fourth stage of the ten-day "Victory-1" maneuvers, Tuesday morning.

The Victory-1 maneuvers launched last Sunday by the naval forces of the Army and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), are held in a 30,000 sq. km. area in the waters of the southern Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and the strategical Hormuz Strait.

The amphibious operations of landing forces in the Persian Gulf coast and islands were successfully carried out by the Army and IRGC forces in the fourth stage of the maneuvers.

The marine forces and the IRGC commandos shelling the southern coast of the enemy's hypothetical islands, attacked the enemy and occupied the islands.

The maneuvers aim to upgrade combat power of the forces and create further coordination between the two forces.

The naval forces also launched an advanced missile, attacking a hyothetical target.

Furthermore, the IRGC teams specialized in repelling chemical, microbiological and nuclear attacks, carried out defensive operations and cleaned the chemically-affected areas.

The maneuvers have six stages in which tens of destroyers, including the rehabilitated "Sabalan," missile-launching frigates, logistical vessels, special IRGC naval forces, a squadron of mine-sweeping helicopters and marine brigades are taking part.

Meanwhile, the "Asad" vessel manufactured by IRGC was launched in the Persian Gulf waters in the first day of the maneuvers. The vessel is equipped with sophisticated radar and fire control systems.

Progress of Zafar-4 Antidrug Campaign Detailed

14,300 Smugglers, Addicts Arrested

LD1412185190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Drug smugglers and addicts numbering 14,300 were arrested and 450 kg of narcotics were seized throughout the country in Zafar-4 exercises. According to an IRNA report, the intelligence and operations deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee announced the news. He added: There are nearly 70 foreigners among those arrested. [passage omitted]

More on Progress

NC1512133590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Last week the Islamic revolution committee launched the Zafar-4 maneuvers, during which more than 13,000 addicts and 1,200 smugglers were arrested. In addition, 12 networks for producing and distributing narcotics were smashed, and 450 kg of various drugs were discovered.

The objective of the Zafar maneuvers, which were initiated last year, was to intensify the campaign against drugs and to elicit the people's cooperation and participation, as well as to mobilize all the resources of the

Islamic revolution committees. In the course of these maneuvers, the officials can respond immediately to reports by the people and initiate the crackdowns and interrogations in the areas and centers about which they have been tipped off.

The Zafar-4 maneuvers were launched in two stages. The secret phase lasted for six days in order to catch the addicts and smugglers unawares. The implementation of these operations was not previously announced, and during them 6,000 addicts and 651 smugglers were arrested.

The objective of the covert phase of the Zafar-4 maneuvers was to arrest as many smugglers and addicts as possible before they had a chance to hide. The Zafar maneuvers are usually carried out simultaneously, on a nationwide scale in cities and villages.

In the Zafar-4 maneuvers, 750 stationary and mobile bases were established in the cities and villages, and greater control was imposed on the axes of the greatest traffic. As the most important part of the campaign against narcotics is the people's information and tip-offs, the Islamic revolution committee strives to utilize the people's enthusiasm for continuing its battle against drugs.

Along with the Zafar-4 maneuvers, the Wal'Adiat scheme was also implemented according to a timetable, and its successful effects and consequences have become evident. It has been reported that 20,000 addicts were weaned from their addiction in this period, and dossiers and identity cards have been issued for more than half of the addicts all over the country.

The Islamic revolution committee officials have announced that the rate of new faces entering the ranks of drug smugglers has slowed, and therefore the price of drugs has soared. In the two years of the scheme to combat drug smuggling, 500 networks and smuggling rings have been smashed and 1,300 smugglers executed.

Even though the already high number of those regularly involved in buying and sellling narcotics has not risen, the current level is in itself testimony to the depth of the activities of the bands and smugglers who are still oblivious of the sad fate that awaits them. What is very obvious regarding the campaign against narcotics is the certainty that the sentence of execution will be implemented for smugglers and those surveilling the borders.

In a comprehensive program, the two aims mentioned above should be continually borne in mind. The revolution committee officials assert that the smugglers fear only for their lives, nothing else. On this basis, any country which inaugurates a scheme to combat drugs and to prevent and control them without the death penalty has in practice ignored half the problem.

At present, in view of the new programs being implemented to combat drugs in the year 1369, [year beginning 21 March 1990] this aspect is of immense importance. First of all, the issue of the campaign against narcotics requires the coordination of all organizations concerned and the coordination of the judiciary and the prisons department. In addition, it requires stringency in implementing verdicts, as well as expanding space for those arrested. This coordination is one of the issues of foremost importance. It has been seen that for lack of space, most addicts are subsequently released.

Another point is that the rehabilitation centers are not adequate for the number of society's addicts. A center which has been established to cater to 20,000 is not suitable and hence, incapable of accommodating half a million addicts. Thus the Public Health Ministry is also obliged to coordinate as necessary with the executive forces in the campaign so that the optimum benefit can be obtained given the time factor and prevailing circumstances. This is because every campaign's success depends upon the follow-up, the time factor, and the opportunities available which determine how beneficial the outcome will be when the campaign is not conducted under normal conditions.

14 Dealers Executed in Khorasan

LD1612133990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1204 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Last week, we had more news on the execution of drug dealers and drug smugglers which, in addition to being a testimony to the continuation of the decisive battle against these agents of arrogance, is also a strong response to the desperate efforts of the West to prevent the execution of these offenders who weaken the foundation of families and societies with their crimes.

As a part of the action, in Torbat-e Jam [Khorasan Province] five smugglers were sentenced to death by the Islamic revolution tribunal for bringing in two kg of heroin from Afghanistan and for wide-scale buying and selling of drugs inside the country. The sentence was carried out.

Also, in accordance with the verdict of the Islamic revolution public prosecutor's office of the town of Bojnurd [Khorasan Province] and the endorsement of the state prosecutor general, nine merchants of death were sentenced to death for buying, selling, and distributing a variety of drugs. The sentence was carried out.

And, finally, apart from the news of the arrest of 778 addicts in Hamadan which took place as part of the Zafar-4 operation, there was more news on the decisive confrontation of merchants of death and the ruinous disease of addiction, but we would need more time to mention all of them.

Suffice it to say, however, in the course of the Zafar-4 operation, 17 drug procurement and distribution gangs were discovered and broken up nationwide and 1,200 drug smugglers were arrested.

This news is worthy of attention both because of the hope it gives to our people with regard to the continued decisive confrontation with drugs by the relevant organizations, and because of the answer it gives to the

reports fabricated and spread by Western mass media and to their attacks against our Islamic country.

Operation Successes Recounted

LD1612201390 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] The Zafar-4 Val-'adyat [anti-narcotics] operation by the Islamic Revolution Committee [IRC], which was implemented throughout the country in two open and covert stages over 10 days, has ended with considerable success. Mr. Za'eri, IRC General Command deputy for intelligence and operations, elaborated on the Zafar-4 operation in an interview with our correspondent today. He said: The Pasdaran [guards] of the IRC obtained 1,560 instances of information from the public, identified 18 drug production and distribution networks, and apprehended their operators. He added: In this regard, 15,234 addicts and 1,542 drug traffickers have been arrested, and 55 firearms and 62 light and heavy vehichles were discovered and confiscated.

He said: The IRC Pasdaran also succeeded, through implementing ambush and patrol operations throughout the country, in cleansing 300 affected areas from the filth of the dealers of death, and discovered and confiscated 647 kg of various types of drugs. He added: After receiving a report about the arrival of an armed drug-carrying convoy of 35 vehicles and several tons of morphine during the Zafar-4 operation, the Pasdaran of the IRC embarked on patrolling the northern and northwestern areas of Sistan and Baluchestan Province in order to track, identify, and destroy the convoy and clean up the affected desert and mountainous areas east of the country.

In these operations, the Pasdaran cleaned up several heights, including the Malusan heights and Zabzpushan area, and then moved toward predesignated targets. During the advance in the mountains, the Pasdaran encountered a branch of the convoy and surrounded them. After a severe clash the traffickers escaped under cover of darkness, leaving behind a vehicle and a motorcycle. Mr. Za'eri said: During this clash, in which Havaniruz [airborne division of the Ground Forces] helicopters and also a committee helicopter took part, two tons of morphine concealed inside 200-liter bushels and 300 kgs of opium extract were burned, and five vehicles belonging to the hooligans carrying equipment, ammunition, and drugs, along with one firearm, and some 4,000 rounds of ammunition, were seized by the forces of Islam.

Ten Percent of Oil Firms' Claims To Be Paid

LD1712174590 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—The Iranian Oil Ministry said in a press release here today that a judgement issued Monday by the International Court of The Hague in relation with Iran-U.S. controversy over the American Arco Consortium in Iran now has settled the entirety of Arco's claims against Iran.

According to the ministry, Iran must pay only as much as 320 million dollars to all members of the (previous) oil consortium in the country which is in fact only ten percent of their claim against the Islamic Republic. The ruling by the International Court also declares the consortium in Iran as having been liquidated.

The oil consortium was established on the basis of an agreement between the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and 14 European and American companies in 1954. According to the agreement the consortium was to engage in drilling and refinery operations in oil rich areas in southern Iran.

The agreement was revised in 1973, though member countries of the consortium stayed on in Iran until the outbreak of the Islamic revolution (1979) following which the company's expatriate employees left Iran, the management of their business and their hardware being taken over by Iranian technicians.

The initial claims against Iran of member companies of consortium added up to something between 2.2 to three billion dollars plus interest which would be between five and 6.6 billion dollars now.

The value of the claims of consortium companies against Iran was between 283 and 343 million dollars until the end of the Iranian calendar year 1358 (March 80), plus their alleged contractual rights.

The ruling of the International Court is also an official declaration of the closure of the consortium in Iran which was operational for decades before the Islamic Revolution.

Oil Minister on OPEC Meeting, Saudi Production

LD1412163790 Tehran IRNA in English 1539 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA—The decision of the 88th OPEC session calling on member states to revert to their previous quotas as soon as the Persian Gulf crisis is over, has helped ease fears about a market glut and a sharp fall in the price of oil, the oil minister said on Friday.

Speaking to reporters upon his return from the OPEC meet in Vienna, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said "The oil ministers of OPEC states particularly those of the Persian Gulf have decided to coordinate their oil supply policy in the event of a war in the region." He did not elaborate.

In its 87th session held last July, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries approved a minimum basket price of 21 dollars per barrel and a total output ceiling of 22.5 million barrels daily.

On the over-supply of heavy crude to the markets, Aqazadeh-Kho'i said Saudi Arabia accounted for most over-production of heavy crude. He said he had some negotiations with Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Hisham Nazir in this regard.

The oil minister quoted Nazir as saying that Saudi Arabia's domestic consumption of heavy crude was doubled because of its supply of energy for American troops based in that country.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i dismissed as "unacceptable" Saudi Arabia's claim that its supply of heavy crude to the markets was a little in excess of the demands, reasoning that "the difference of price between heavy and light crude now stands at 5 to 6 dollars per barrel."

He said closed-door bilateral and multilateral talks held between OPEC oil ministers focused on the future of the oil markets after the end of the Persian Gulf crisis.

New Islamic Revolution Patrols Begin Work

LD1512152990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Committee of Tehran Governorate announced: In connection with the activity of the Special Ra'd [Thunder] Patrols which began their work last week, Tehran citizens may contact telephone number 310001-9.

Meanwhile, the Tehran residents have been asked to report to the Islamic Revolution Committee all individuals who introduce themselves as members of the committee but are not wearing the committee uniform and cannot produce valid identity cards issued by the committee.

One should be reminded that the mission of the units of the Special Ra'd Patrols is to safeguard the Islamic Revolution's achievements, wage a campaign against drug smugglers, maintain the city's security, arrest hooligans, and confront social vices.

Commentary Warns Against Ties With Britain

NC1712153190 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 5 Dec 90 p 2

[Commentary: "Britain's Objective Is To Destroy the Imam's Ideals"]

[Text] Rasul Dinarvand, a Muslim Iranian student who was beaten up by Britain's security police along with another Muslim Iranian student, raised an interesting point in the interview he gave to the press at London's Heathrow Airport. He said that British security police officers at the London airport used a large picture of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be blessed, for target practice.

If this is true—and undoubtedly what a pious, committed, and revolutionary Muslim says is true—then it shows the depth of the British leaders' hatred of and spite for the leader of the Islamic Revolution.

The British security police are required only to fulfill their assigned duties. Using a picture of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be blessed, as a target was not something they decided to do by themselves.

The British police cannot do something so inhuman and spiteful without having received orders from the hierarchy, namely from the British home secretary and the other high-ranking British officials.

This is a symbol of the British statesmen's opposition to the great leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, in particular and to the Islamic revolution in general. It is not only the picture of Imam Khomeyni that has been used as a target by the suppressive British security policy. The ideals and divine aspirations of the dear imam also are a target of direct and indirect attacks by arrogance and by old British colonialism. The sharp end of the arrow of the hatred and spite of old British colonialism is aimed at the Islamic revolution and at our late imam's lofty aspirations. The British statesmen's list of sinister and wretched objectives give special priority to annihilating the imam's views, objectives, and aspirations. The British security police's shameful and inhuman act is only one aspect of the depth of the hidden plot against the Islamic revolution and the liberating aspirations of the imam who was the true and genuine mentor of the Revolution.

Western and especially British arrogance and colonialism intends to use any possible method to prevent the infiltration into Islamic society of the ideals of our late imam and of pure Mohammedan Islam of which he was a pure disciple. America and Britain have invested much in this plot and have done their best to implement it.

The officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran should not ignore the hidden signs of the spite, hatred, plots, and machinations that arrogance and colonialism employed against the system and against the Islamic revolution, which was one of the fruits of our late imam's blessed life. They should not extend a hand of friendship without reservation to the other side, which has undoubtedly sworn eternal hostility toward the Islamic societies and pure Mohammedan Islam. In this midst, the role and duty of the enforcers of the country's foreign policy and especially of the Foreign Ministry is heavier and most significant. It seems that we have been indulging in wishful thinking about establishing understanding and trust vis-a-vis the misleading guise of the British statesmen, at a time when things are exactly the opposite and the enemy has not only not changed its character but is more hostile than before.

It is up to the officials of the Foreign Ministry to beat such a vile enemy's head against a rock and to decisively cut off its hand from the interests and destiny of the Islamic ummah.

In short, the stand that we should adopt toward Britain and its statesmen is a stand that they deserve and that will safeguard the respect, dignity, and prestige of the ummah and divine system of the Islamic revolution and of Islamic Iran.

Americans Urged To Oppose Support for Israel

NC1412162490 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 8 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Intifadah—A Challenge to the Conscience of U.S. Taxpayers"]

[Text] Here we present a human rights violation worth pondering: 1.75 million Arabs are today confined to their homes, or are in the process of being confined to their homes on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the intifadah in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The world, and American taxpayers in particular, need to pay special attention to this latest international crime being committed in illegally occupied lands on two counts. First of all, a Security Council resolution has been on the books for 23 years now calling for an Israeli withdrawal to her pre-June 6, 1967 borders.

The Zionist regime has failed to comply with the order and delights in thumbing its nose at the international community in this regard. Since 1967 a succession of governments have established 170 permanent colonial settlements in the occupied territories, with 50,000 Israelis inhabiting them. In occupied Arab Jerusalem and the surrounding areas, 130,000 more Israelis have nested in an attempt to change the character of the city and make the Palestinians a minority therein. Moreover, the USG has in recent months contributed to this snowballing crime by promising $400 million in aid to help settle newly arriving Soviet immigrants, with the fig leaf proviso that none of the money be used to settle Israelis in the occupied territories. The Shamir government has hinted broadly that they will disregard the American concerns.

This latest scenario is juxtaposed against another set of U.N. Security Council resolutions that has seen 400,000 U.S.-led foreign troops rushed to the Persian Gulf in a space of 125 days (not 23 years and five months) ostensibly to make Iraq quit its occupation of Kuwait. Of course the larger aim of the U.S. troops buildup is to crush the military potential of Iraq which has lately emerged as the most potent regional military threat to Israel.

Thus the core of the American raison d'etre in the entire area is the safeguarding of Israel and not U.S. interests; a strange can of foreign policy worms indeed. As for the Fahds and al-Sabahs of the region, Washington is gnashing its teeth on Tel Aviv's behalf simply because Arab potentates of their ilk are content to live peacefully with Zionism, even though that movement has consistently proven it neither needs or favors peace with the Arabs, only subjugation.

With middle and lower class Americans being programmed to die for Zionism in the Persian Gulf (only two children of 535 U.S. congressmen are involved in Operation Desert Shield, while as many as 25 percent of the troops will be blacks, twice their ratio in the population) national deficit and recession ridden U.S. citizens should also understand our second point: The role they are playing in the occupied territories. The bill for keeping the 1.75m Palestinians under house arrest is being paid by American wage-earners in order to assist Israel in the suppression of an uprising that stems directly from the Zionists' refusal to comply with a Security Council resolution.

This is a dilemma of no small concern, especially for the 8m odd American Muslims. U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East places them at loggerheads with their Islamic obligations, giving them unimpeachable religious grounds to stop paying taxes. How can they be required, in good conscience, to contribute their hard earned dollars to aiding and abetting the blatant oppression and even murder of their Muslim brethren?

American Christians should also consider their contribution to the carnage because more than a few of the 1,300 Palestinians who have been felled by Israeli bullets since Dec. 9,1987, or who have had their properties confiscated and been improperly detained, have been Christians.

Unfortunately, the several days of detention the entire populations of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are in the midst of, will hardly get a hearing in the American media. News of the Soviet emigrants flooding into Palestine will, however, continue to be covered.

PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command] chief Ahmad Jibril said in Tehran this week that the intifadah represents the last trench for the Palestinians and that it must achieve victory. Conscientious American Muslims and Christians will have to join that trench in some form or fashion in order to be in compliance with the callings of their respective faiths. And this despite their own government's blatant hypocrisy with respect to sanctioning and securing Israel's ability to maintain her own noncompliance with a nearly quarter-of-a-century old U.N. Security Council resolution.

Paper on Intifadah, Immigration of Soviet Jews

NC1412165990 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 4 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Intifadah Will Remain Triumphant"]

[Text] The First Islamic Conference of Palestine held in Iran opens here today at the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS). A large number of experts on Palstine question from the Islamic countries, as well as other states, are here to take part in the three-day seminar which will focus mainly on the intifadah.

The intifadah, which is a turning point in the history of the just movement of the Palestinian nation, has been under heavy attack by the Zionists and their supporters since its birth three years ago. The recent crimes committed by Israel in suppressing the Palestinian uprising within the occupied territories and in southern Lebanon are doomed to fail, because the Palestinian masses are more than ever determined to fight and resist the Zionists with all available facilities.

The Tehran conference on Palestine should assess the entire spectrum of possible means to further expand military assistance and political support to the Palestinians inside the occupied territories. The Palestinian nation, through jihad (holy war), has now found the true path to freedom and by relying on the power of the Palestinian masses and not political organizations which depend on foreigners, will achieve independence.

At this moment it is very important for the Palestinian people to remain united, maintain unity of expression, continue their decisive struggle against the usurper Israel and consider killing and dying for the cause of Islam as blessed and an honorable accomplishment.

In recent months while the intifadah is attracting worldwide attention, Moscow, previously the Arab's traditional supporter, is allowing the migration of millions of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. In this way the USSR, while stabbing Arabs and particularly the Palestinians in the back, will help Tel Aviv tilt the demography of occupied Palestine in its favor.

Although at the present time all the big powers are united in one front against the Palestinian people, the just movement of brave Palestinian women, men, and youth and their stones, are successfully defying the Zionists' bullets and war machine. No doubt the Palestinians' faith and determination have amazed the arrogant powers.

Thus far the notorious government of Israel has used all sorts of criminal tactics and misdeeds, most ominously the October 8th Temple Mount massacre, to suppress the intifadah. Nevertheless, it has failed in its mischievous attempts mostly because of the sharp reaction of international public opinion towards these particular felonies.

One of the evil initiatives introduced by the Zionists, for suppression of the intifadah, has been the deportation of all foreign journalists from occupied Palestine and in the reporter free environment, fire indiscriminately on Palestinian demonstrators. [sentence as published]

Finally, if war in the Persian Gulf is launched and if Iraq fires her "stone" missiles at Tel Aviv, while the Arabs are busy fighting each other, then under the cover of war, the Zionists will order foreign journalists to leave the country and be free to slaughter Palestinians without fear of any news leakage.

Paper on Need for Unified Intifadah Leadership

NC1412164390 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 6 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] The Palestinian issue is the most important and major issue for the world of Islam. Jihad, or holy war, for retaking the occupied Palestinian lands is a compulsory duty for all Muslims and any compromise on the Palestinian issue is tantamount to treachery.

The above was stated by the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in a meeting with leaders of the Palestinian revolution and other important Middle Eastern personalities in Tehran for a conference on the intifadah (or the uprising in the occupied lands).

Although the intifadah began 36 months ago, few Middle East political analysts could predict that an uprising on such a vast scale could erupt in the occupied lands. But today three years after the start of the intifadah, there are many problems standing in the way of its final success. The creation of several different centers of leadership within the intifadah is one of the serious threats against the Palestinian uprising.

During the past few decades, various Arab countries have unfortunately acquired the habit of using different Palestinian organizations as tools of their own foreign policies. These Palestinian organizations, due to their financial dependence and the weak personalities of their leaders, usually have succumbed to the Arab regimes.

At this stage in the Palestinian revolutionary movement, creation of a single, unified and powerful leadership is upmost importance. Such a leadership should not seek an "Arab" solution to the Palestinian issue, as this is a defeated plan. The problem is a far wider one inherent in most Islamic countries and what the intifadah needs is the all-out support of all Islamic nations, not just the Arabs.

Islamic countries should not lose the opportunity stemming from the present conditions created by Palestinian sacrifices. So far, the intifadah has succeeded in transfering the Palestinian struggle outside of Palestine's borders to within the occupied lands—which has been of vital importance. This success of the revolution has made the Zionist enemy uncertain and lose its peace of mind. The Zionists now face Palestinian combatants as well as the Palestinian masses as a whole and has produced a situation where the regime is now under greater and greater pressure.

Editorial Urges Muslim Support for Palestinians

NC1412161390 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Urgent Attention to Palestine Issue Needed"]

[Text] A conference titled Palestine Islamic Conference ended in Tehran on Thursday issuing a resolution. In the statement the participants reiterated that Palestine is the

land of Islam and Muslims and Israel a racist, occupier and terrorist entity and campaign against it is a cultural and historical all-out fight against the enemy of humanity. The struggle should continue with all force and relentlessly. This resolution also condemns the influx of mainly Russian Jews to Israel.

The Palestinian issue enjoys particular importance for the Muslim world and it should not be overshadowed by any other issue. The existence of Israel with its racist and expansionist ambitions has always been and will always be a potential and serious threat to the Muslims. Influx of Jews to Israel is undoubtedly aimed at strengthening the illegal existence of Israel and this issue should not go unheeded.

The Palestinian people can be helped in very many different ways and this aid should not be limited merely to slogans. In fact they should be provided military, financial, propagation and other support not only by the Muslims the world over but also by all free nations belonging to every school of thought who are concerned with human rights.

The community of Muslim nations, under present conditions when the influx of Jews to Israel has expanded, should unite. Through informing the international public opinion of the consequences of this migration process they should do everything in their means to prevent it. It should be realized that this migration is not an ordinary affair but due to the racist and expansionist nature of the occupying regime ruling in Palestine. The migration is a tragic violation of the most elementary human rights of the Palestinian Muslim people.

At present the human rights of the Palestinian people are being violated on a daily basis, including massacres, tortures, etc.

The free nations of the world and Muslims need more than ever to address themselves to the issue of Palestine and the conspiracies afoot to fill their land with Soviet Jews adding to all the other deprivations these hapless people have been subject to since their lands were taken away from them.

*Paper on New Foreign Policy Directions

91AS0259S London KEYHAN in Persian
22 Nov 90 p 12

[Article by Thierry de Montbrial of LE FIGARO: "The End of Khomeynistic Diplomacy and the Reaction to It in the West. Iran: On the Road to Normalization"]

[Text] In several issues of KEYHAN, under the title "Hypocrisy and Need—The Islamic Republic's Policy on the Persian Gulf Crisis," we studied aspects of the recent changes in the foreign policy of the governing regime in Iran, which is an attempt to bring the government out of its international isolation and is actually an admission of the failure and end of a 10-year period of "Khomeynistic diplomacy." In this issue we read a selection from articles in the French press. Each of them deals with a part of the Islamic Republic's recent foreign policy activities, and although all of the statements by their authors do not conform to today's truth or reality in Iran, in the aggregate, they present a telling image of what Western specialists and public opinion think about the Islamic Republic's position and policies.

Thierry de Montbrial is head of the French International Relations Institute. Recently, the Islamic Republic invited him to come to Tehran and give guidance to the regime on international affairs, and especially on running the regime's recently-established Center for Strategic Research, headed by Musavi-Kho'iniha, the leader of the group that occupied the American Embassy in Tehran. After going to Tehran and meeting with Kho'iniha, de Montbrial, who was much exploited by the regime as a way to garner prestige for Musavi-Kho'iniha, wrote the following article concerning recent changes in Iran.

Throughout most of the 70s, for logical reasons, the West regarded Khomeyni's Islamic Republic as the "number one evil" in the Middle East. Today, this role has obviously been transferred to Iraq. In 1988, the process of our coming close to Iran was suspended because of the Salman Rushdie affair. Today, however, diplomatic relations have been established between the Islamic Republic and England, and the process of Tehran normalizing diplomatic relations with the European capitals, and especially with Paris, is well underway. Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait has clearly accelerated this process.

What is happening inside Iran, however? It has been a year since the Imam died, and the revolutionary fervor of the masses has subsided significantly. The regime of the mullas is subject to more criticism by the public every day, who realize that their living conditions have worsened steadily since the shah was removed. Even Khomeyni himself is not exempt from criticism for the damage his war with Iraq did to the country.

In the Midst of Agitated Neighbors

Suddenly Hashemi-Rafsanjani's "moderate" inclinations have been able to obtain concessions. It appears that this Hojjat ol-Eslam ought never to forget that he is the "sultan of pistachios." He has understood for a long time that if the regime cannot find a place for itself again in the civilized world and rebuild its economic base—and these two issues are related—it will condemn itself to oblivion. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's mate, Khamene'i, is today the counterweight to the current instability. This mate has pledged himself to implementing an ideology whose most striking manifestations are forcing women to wear the Islamic veil and prohibiting the consumption of alcohol. They have imposed these limitations on the people with indisputable success, but they have removed the theorists from the effective management of the nation's affairs and turned the management of affairs over to young technocrats, most of whom are competent.

At the beginning of October, in a masterful stroke, Hashemi-Rafsanjani succeeded in eliminating the hard-liners from the Assembly of Experts, which has the job of choosing the "leader" when the position is empty. More generally, it appears that henceforth the most prominent clergymen will have to devote themselves solely to religious matters.

Today, Iran is surrounded by countries that are all in a state of turmoil, Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula to the West, the Soviet Union to the north, Afghanistan and Pakistan to the east. As far as Iraq is concerned, the Iranians are hoping the United States will settle accounts with Saddam Husayn, but it is difficult for them to say this openly. They know that if their enemy can get a foothold in Kuwait, Iran will be the biggest loser. So far, Iran has profited from the free return of its occupied land and the war prisoners Saddam Husayn has turned over to them, as well as from the increase in the price of oil.

Tehran wants to improve its relations with the Arabian Peninsula, and especially with Riyadh, in three main areas: religious issues, OPEC, and regional economic cooperation. Riyadh also wants this, because it secretly fears an alliance between Iran and Iraq. The Islamic Republic regime's reservations are great about the Saudi monarchy, however, which in their belief is more discredited than before because of the entry of American forces, and they believe that in the more or less near future the Saudi regime is condemned to destruction. Even so, in the current circumstances there is nothing preventing them from talking with Saudi Arabia.

The Iranian regime, like the nations of Europe, has no thought of benefitting by stoking the fires of nationalism that are engulfing the Soviet Union. The Islamic Republic knows that an independent Azerbayjan, for example, would be nothing more than a new security problem for it. Its goal, therefore, is to improve its relations with the neighboring Soviet republics (such as Azerbayjan, as well as Tajikistan, whose people speak Persian) in cultural and economic areas, but with a complete understanding with Moscow.

Concerning Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic is playing a clever game. Officially, they support the Mujahidin, and they are proud to be doing this through their foreign ministry instead of through their army staff as Pakistan does. Like the Western governments, however, at the same time they clearly recognize the success of Najibullah, who controls one-third of his territory. Therefore, they are in contact with the government of Afghanistan. In the view of the Tehran regime's officials, any solution must include the Mujahidin and Najibullah within Afghanistan and outside Afghanistan the neighboring powers, meaning Iran, the Soviet Union, and Pakistan. In reality, it appears that Iran, like the nations of the West, believes that in the new conditions the Soviet Union has created, there are more benefits in preserving the government of Afghanistan than in overthrowing it.

Uncertain Future

Realizing the tragedy that has come out of the Iran-Iraq war, Iran has fully understood that it has no possibility of exporting the revolution or its demands to places very far from its base, for example as it tried to do in Lebanon through the Hizballah. In this regard also Tehran is now adopting a middle course, reflected in Lebanon by the closer ties between the Hizballah and Nabi Birri's Amal movement.

If we take a general look at conditions in Iran, we sense that the regime has truly decided to move towards normalizing its situation. The officials of the Islamic Republic have fully understood the limitations their foreign policy can create in their domestic policies, whether for example with regard to the Rushdie episode or with regard to the condition of women in that country.

Even these hopeful signs, however, give one absolutely no right to conclude that the future is necessarily bright: it is more appropriate if we say that since Iraq has become the "evil one," Iran has inevitably become the "beloved."

The truth is that the revolution has not yet really ended. The regime is at least as much a police state as the one under the shah, and unexpected events are still possible.

However, there is no indication that the Middle East can rapidly change into a harmonious aggregate of proper democracies. We (Westerners) can and must try, as much as possible, to adopt an open policy and especially a balanced policy towards each of the governments of the region. In the name of this policy, we were right to support Iraq when Khomeyni had a chance of winning, just as we have the right today to oppose Saddam's opportunistic quest for superiority and strengthen our relations with the imam's heirs.

*Report on State, Cost of Health Care

91AS0286D London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] While the coefficient of health care expenditures for an urban family was 2.7 in the year 1356 [21 March 1977-20 March 1978], this figure has now more than doubled to 5.9. The increase in the rate of treatment services by physicians working in Tehran and other municipalities, as well as the increase in fees at hospitals, which has been confirmed by the regime's health care officials, has added significantly to the burden of the countless economic and social problems of the people. According to the Islamic Republic newspaper ABRAR, "the people return from the hospitals with empty pockets."

Reports from Tehran and other municipalities in the country state that recently some physicians, in addition to demanding the treatment fees provided in physician's tariffs, also collect from patients significant sums as earnest money and individual wages. In a recent report titled "A Year's Wages To Pay for a Surgical Operation," the Islamic Republic newspaper ABRAR writes: The

people say that although they have protested repeatedly the high cost of treatment services, they have yet to find a receptive listener.

The newspaper presented a lamentable image of the way health care and treatment services are provided. In part of its report, it said: Although inflation and high prices are evident for all goods and services and the people manage in some way, the high cost of essential goods and services for their lives appears to be almost intolerable.

The newspaper ABRAR added: The increase of rates for health care and treatment services and their upward trend in recent months and years has reached the point that some people must spend their entire annual income on a surgical operation. Quoting a patient, ABRAR wrote: For surgery such as a delivery, physicians now collect a sum of money from the patient as a physician's fee, and another sum from the hospital as the physician's tariff. The patient added: To deliver my wife's baby, a gynecologist collected 9,000 tomans as a physician's fee and 16,000 tomans as "hospital costs and wages." Elsewhere in its report, the newspaper quoted another woman: How fair is it to charge 4,000 tomans to pull two teeth?

According to ABRAR, another patient said: For my father's unsuccessful operation, I paid 8,000 tomans over five days to the attending physician, and this was the amount I made in a year, and I still haven't repaid the loans I took. The newspaper ABRAR added: In recent years, along with the reduced economic capability of the people due to inflation, the cost of health care and treatment services has risen continuously. The rate of treatment services has increased every year, and there is no doubt that on the other hand, because of inflation in every dimension, this increase appears unreasonable.

Based on statistics published by the Islamic Republic's Plan and Budget Organization, the country is now suffering from an acute shortage of physicians, and for every 3,000 in population we have one working physician. The Plan and Budget Organization has mentioned 33,000 as the size of the current shortage of physicians. An analysis of statistics published by the Plan and Budget Organization shows that for every 20,000 in the population there is now one dentist, and for every 17,000 in the population there is one pharmacist. In these statistics the figure 20,000 was given as the size of the shortage of dentists.

The newspaper KEYHAN published in the Islamic Republic also recently published a detailed report titled "Population Strains Treatment Capacity" in which it analyzed the nation's health care and treatment situation. It wrote: The population increases every day, and every day more people look to existing resources to meet their basic needs.

The newspaper added: Health care and treatment are especially important as one of the population's primary needs. Each new person added to the population demands many new resources in the area of health care and treatment. The general limitations on these resources is something that can be recognized even without the help of statistical reports. Apart from the general shortages, however, the inequitable distribution of these same limited resources is itself another problem. The fact that the residents of towns and small population centers are turning to the large cities, especially Tehran, is a clear indication of this.

Inequitable Manpower Distribution in Health Care Services

One health care expert believes that another problem for health care and treatment in the Islamic Republic is the distribution of manpower and specialist personnel. Statistics published by the World Health Organization and also by the Islamic Republic's statistical resources show that currently, along with the shortage of trained physicians and health care personnel, other basic problems such as the inequitable distribution of these forces in various parts of the country, as well as the concentration of specialist physicians and health care experts in several of the nation's major cities, have doubled the many problems in this area. The problem of the increased population has had a profound effect on the quantity and quality of the provision of health care services in the Islamic Republic. A reporter from KEYHAN published in Tehran believes that the growth of population, in view of the fact that it is getting younger in Iran, has led to an increase in the amount of health care and treatment services needed, especially in the areas of health care supervision and related services, and this has consequently retarded the growth in the indicators for health care quality.

Based on statistics related to health care services and the personnel employed in this area, in the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], there were 0.34 physicians for every 1,000 population. In other words, in the year under discussion, we didn't even have one physician for every one thousand in the population, rather we had one physician for every three thousand. In part of his article, the Tehran KEYHAN reporter wrote: The situation is even more regrettable with regard to the number of dentists. In 1367, there was not even one dentist for every 10,000 in the population.

Statistical studies of the Islamic Republic's physician and health care personnel show that in 1367 for every 10,000 in the population there were 0.65 pharmacists, or in other words, for every 17,000 people there was one working pharmacist. Statistics on the number of hospital beds in Iran in 1367 also show that in this year, for every 1,000 in the population there was 1.46 hospital beds.

Physicians Refuse To Return to Country

An expert in physician affairs told KEYHAN's reporter that currently thousands of Iranian physicians, because of the political and social circumstances prevailing in the country, prefer to work and live in the industrialized nations of the West and even the nations of the Third World to returning to Iran, and every year more physicians leave the country. The shortage of physicians in

Iran, the rapid growth in the population, and the lack of interest in returning on the part of physicians employed abroad have led to significant malfunctions in medical and health care services. The expert added: Despite the fact that in the past few years the Islamic Republic's education and health care officials have opened medical training institutions in some parts of the country, the lack of educational resources, the shortage of suitable classroom space and scientific laboratories, and finally the shortage of trained staff and experienced professors, have meant that the graduates of such schools have not had the abilities needed to practice medicine. Consequently, it can be expected that in the future the quality of health care and medical services will get much worse than it is now.

An Iranian professor in the field of medicine at London University told KEYHAN's reporter that currently there are almost no hospitals in the United States without at least one Iranian doctor. The professor added: The situation is more or less the same as it is in the United States in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, and Canada, and based on statistics published by health officials of the European Community, the number of Iranian physicians practicing medicine and teaching in these countries is significantly higher than the number of emigrant physicians from other Third World countries. The Iranian professor from London University noted that most Iranian physicians and specialists would love to return to the country and serve the nation's deprived people, and he explained that unfortunately the circumstances prevailing in the country and especially the social, political, and economic difficulties caused by the establishment of the Islamic regime are seen as the primary reason these people refuse to return to the country.

*Commentary on Attack on Majles

91AS0286I London KEYHAN in Persian
8 Nov 90 p 12

[Text] The Majles deputies, especially the 170 who are in the so-called "hardline faction", are severely worried about their fate. The first attack from the Hashemi-Rafsanjani-Khamene'i faction on the Majles occurred at a time when about a year and a half earlier the Constitutional Review Council had sought to give 'Ali Khamene'i the authority to dissolve the Majles. He had been appointed "leader" at that time. That attack failed, however, because Khomeyni had already confirmed each and every change that was to be made to the Constitution, and giving the "leader" the option of dissolving the Majles was not one of them.

Khamene'i did not get the authority to dissolve the Majles, but that effort by him and Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who no longer needed power although he himself was not head of the Majles, having become president, was the prelude to a struggle that has now entered a new phase.

Some Majles deputies made no secret of their worry that in the next Majles elections the same thing would happen to this Majles that happened in the latest elections for the Council of Guardians. However, since the next Majles elections are two years away, Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani are now considering two possible solutions: The first solution is to take control of the Majles away from the hardliners and take control of the Majles itself. If this ploy fails, their second option is to render the Majles ineffective.

In both cases, expelling the hardliners from the Majles appears to be an absolute decision. It is said that in the not-too-distant future the two main hardline pillars in the Majles, Sheykh Sadeq Khalkhali and 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, one because of a verdict of murder and a confiscation order he issued, the other on charges of killing Dr. Kazem Sami, will be tried in the special clergy court chaired by Mohammad Reyshahri.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i calculate that with this master stroke, the others will back off. The flattery of 'Ali Khamene'i by Majles Speaker Mehdi Karrubi after his release from the hospital is seen as a clear indication. Despite all this, informed circles in Tehran believe that this smooth talk will not save Karrubi and that after the show of strength that the Khamene'i-Hashemi-Rafsanjani-Yazdi coalition will display to the Majles, the speaker's position will go to 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who was defeated by Karrubi in the previous elections for the Majles Speaker's Council and is now seeking to make up for that defeat.

*Commentary on Protest of Gilan Peasants

91AS0286J London KEYHAN in Persian
8 Nov 90 p 12

[Text] Tehran newspapers have reported recently that heavy rainfall and flooding destroyed a bridge on the Tehran-Rasht road and that traffic was stopped for several days. A report from Gilan, however, states that the flood was in one place and the bridge was destroyed in another place. The flood did not destroy the bridge; rural people who had suffered great losses in the last heavy earthquake destroyed it, and they have been waiting in vain almost three months for aid promised by the government.

The stricken rural people said that until they receive sufficient guarantees that the promised aid will actually take place, they will prevent the bridge from being repaired. Mediation by a delegation of Gilan Majles deputies was ineffective in soothing the peasants, and those deputies returned to Tehran without achieving anything.

The government then asked the peasants to send 10 representatives to Tehran to discuss the nature of the aid. The protesting rural people answered, however, that in Tehran their representatives would not be safe, and moreover, the government might corrupt them and send them back with empty promises. Consequently, the peasants demanded that the government send its representatives to the other side of the bridge to talk.

After the negotiations, the rural people said that if their rightful demands are not met by a specific deadline, they would take action of that kind again. In the midst of this, the announcement by the Asia Insurance Company that payments for damages would be given to insured earthquake victims was seen as an indication that the government has taken the threat from the earthquake victims seriously. Some people think that the fact that voting did not take place in Gilan during the recent Majles elections is not unrelated to the recent struggle.

Pakistan

President, India's Dubey Discuss Solutions

BK1812161990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The president has expressed the hope that the present visit of the Indian foreign secretary will help build upon the encouraging trend emerging from the recent meeting of the prime ministers of India and Pakistan and produce positive results. During his meeting with the Indian Foreign Secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, in Islamabad today, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that during their meeting in the Maldives on the occasion of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Summit, the two prime ministers had expressed interest in solving all bilateral issues on the basis of justice. The president agreed that all the problems embittering India-Pakistan relations cannot be resolved in one attempt. He emphasized, however, that the issues will not disappear by ignoring them and will keep proliferating if not dealt with in the right spirit and right way.

Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan expressed Pakistan's desire to establish good neighborly relations with India. He said to realize this desire, it is imperative that the other side adopts a constructive attitude and display courage to tackle the basic cause of the problems. During the meeting, all aspects of bilateral relations were reviewed. The president reiterated Pakistan's principled stand on the Kashmir issue and expressed deep anguish over the situation in Indian-held Kashmir, the on-going anti-Muslim riots in India, and the attempts to demolish the Babri Masjid [mosque]. He expressed the hope that the Indian Government would take the necessary steps to discharge its constitutional obligations toward its minorities.

The Indian foreign secretary reiterated India's known position on various bilateral issues and said that the difference of opinion between the two countries regarding these issues should not be allowed to obstruct the path of normalization of relations. He asked the president to pray for the success of the current round of talks.

Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan Mr. J.N. Dixit and Pakistani High Commissioner to India Mr. Abdus Sattar were also present during the meeting.

The Indian foreign secretary also called on Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and discussed with him matters pertaining to the present round of talks.

The two-day talks between the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan began in Islamabad today. Though there is no fixed agenda for the talks, it has been reported that the two foreign secretaries are discussing the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Another round of talks will be held tomorrow.

Minister Announces New Industrial Policy

BK1412120190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] A new industrial policy package providing tax holiday, concessions in customs duty, and debt equity ratio has been announced. It will help accelerate economic development and generate employment opportunities, particularly in rural areas. This was announced by the federal minister for industries, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, and the finance minister, Mr. Sarjaz Aziz, at a joint news conference in Islambad today.

Explaining the salient features of the policy, the finance minister said government sanction would no longer be required for establishment of new industrial unity, irrespective of their size, sponsor, and location. Investors would not be questioned about the source of investment provided the letter of credit was established or the contract for local delivery of machinery was signed by the 30th of June 1992. Tax holiday for new industrial units would be available for three years in urban, five years in rural, and eight years in backward areas. Machinery imported for backward areas would be exempt from custom duty, sales tax, and import surcharge in June 1995. Mr. Sarjaz Aziz said debt equity ratio for all industrial units has been fixed at 70-30 as compared to 60-40 at present. It would be further liberalized to 80-20 for making manufactured machinery in order to provide a fillip to the development of engineering industry in the country. The federal industries minister said in order to protect the local engineering industry, duty concessions have been restricted to pumps and machinery which are not manufactured locally. Restrictions on industries producing fertilizers, cement, automobiles, fuel products and sugar in rural areas had been abolished. Chaudhary Shujat Hussain said the government will also be announcing a comprehensive package of facilities for industrial workers, which will include health, education, and accommodation facilities.

Cabinet Discusses New Airline, New Air Base

BK1612093690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] The Federal Cabinet meeting in Islamabad today decided in principle to permit the setting up of an airline in the private sector for transportation of passengers as well as cargo. The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif,

presided. The cabinet decided that the new airline will be in addition to the all-cargo Shahin Air Services. This measure would provide healthy competition in the matter of air transport. The proposal of the Ministry of Defense to set up a new air force base in Bholari near Hyderabad was also approved. The Cabinet approved the proposal to allow the SUPARCO [Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission] to sign agreement with the Earth Observation Satellite Company for use of Landsat-6 2-C signals from the satellite.

The proposal of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism based on a decision of the Pakistan-Bahrain Joint Committee meeting held in October last year was approved in principle. The Cabinet also ratified the memorandum of understanding with the governments of China and Italy in the field of production of defense equipment.

On the proposal of the Ministry of Culture and Sports, the Cabinet decided that permanent public record of various ministries and government organizations be transferred to National Archives.

The Cabinet was briefed by the Sindh chief minister, Jam Sadiq Ali, on the prevailing law and order situation in the Sindh Province. He mentioned special measures taken to deal with the situation.

Sri Lanka

PRC Premier Li Peng Begins Official Visit

Holds Talks With Premadasa

BK1812132790 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Official talks between President Ranasinghe Premadasa and the visiting Chinese prime minister were held in a very cordial atmosphere yesterday. Adviser to the president on international affairs, Bradman Weerakoon, briefing newsmen said that the talks basically covered three areas: the review of the international situation, some aspects of regional issues, and bilateral issues between Sri Lanka and China.

At the commencement of the talks, the president referred to the specific significance of the date 18 December 1952, the day on which rubber-rice pact between the two countries was signed. The review of the international situation covered areas such as the progress made as a result of disarmament, the manner in which the regional conflicts were resolved, particularly Africa and Asia, and resolutions adopted. However, the situation in the Gulf region caused concern. Both leaders discussed how it has affected the two parties. The president at this stage referred to the question of repatriation and remittances of the Sri Lankan workers, the effect on our tea exports and the oil prices. Both agreed that a peaceful resolution should be found to the crisis. Briefing newsmen, Mr. Weerakoon further said that the two leaders touched on the global economy and expressed the need to reduce protectionism and integrate national economies into the main stream, particularly by the freeing of trade. The president referred to the constant search for export markets considering the challenges of 1992.

The two leaders, talking on regional matters, referred to the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and the president referred to the Male summit as a fruitful dialogue on cooperation. The president mentioned that the two proposals made by Sri Lanka on poverty alleviation and the SAARC year of shelter have been accepted.

They also discussed Sri Lanka's relations with India. At this stage, president Ranasighe Premadasa referred to the proposed friendship treaty between India and Sri Lanka. He also referred to the support the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] organization had been getting from Tamil Nadu in the past and said but he was grateful to the Indian government for clearly indicating that militant activities in Tamil Nadu would not be tolerated and that Indian soil would not be permitted to them for such activities. This would develop good relations between the two nations.

The Chinese premier referred to certain problems he had to face during the past and on economic sanctions by certain countries. Discussing China's assistance to Sri Lanka, Mr. Li Peng indicated that there would be further five year economic loan to the tune of 375 million rupees. This will be interest-free and with a grace period of 10 years. Assistance will also be given to improve the Abeyagiri vihare [Buddhist temple] in the cultural triangle.

Remarks at State Banquet

BK1812125390 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa has said that there are disparities in size, population, and power between Sri Lanka and China. We have, however, achieved a unique relationship founded on the principle of the sovereign equality of states. He said it is based on trust, confidence, and mutual respect. Speaking at the state banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Chinese prime minister, Li Peng, and Madam Zhu Lin, at [name indistinct] last night, the president said that China's greatness lies not merely in its size to us, it lies in its ability to conduct its relations with small countries such as ours on the basis of friendship and equality. This exemplary quality in our relationship has made it possible for us to cooperate successfully in several areas. The president referred to the rubber-rice agreement signed between the two countries in 1952. This pioneering and historic agreement was mutually beneficial. It opened the doors for closer cooperation and collaboration between the two countries in many fields. He said Sri Lanka looks forward to deepening and expanding relations, particularly in the field of economic cooperation. The president pointed out that Sri Lanka sincerely endeavored to reach consensus through consultation and compromise. We have maintained this approach even in

the face of unprecedented violence unleashed by a few who have resorted to terrorism to achieve their objectives through undemocratic means. We have patiently pursued this option. Our success will enable our citizens to live in prosperity, safety, and security in a united Sri Lanka. The president added that in this endeavor we need the understanding and support of all our friends.

In his reply, Chinese Premier Li Peng said that the long standing and unique culture of Sri Lanka and the annals of its unyielding struggles have long won the admiration of the Chinese people. The Sri Lankan people are talented and industrious, sincere, and honest. For (?their) enterprise, they are working hard to build the country and open up a new horizon for their lives. He said under the leadership of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, the Sri Lankan government remains firm in safeguarding national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and continues to explore an economic model and ways of development suited to the national conditions. The Chinese leader pointed out that for 30 years China and Sri Lanka have treated each other on an equal footing with amity, sympathise with, and support each other. Between us there is no dispute but friendship. The Sino-Sri Lankan relationship has become a model for relationsship between nations with different social systems.

Speaks at Civic Reception

BK1912124490 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] The Colombo Municipal Council accorded a civic reception to the visiting prime minister of the People's Republic of China, Li Peng, at the Town hall, yesterday. On arrival the Chinese premier was received by Mayor Hussain Mohamed, Mrs. Mohamed, Deputy Mayor Edward Wijesuriya, Mrs. Wijesuriya, and Municipal Commissioner Pereira.

Welcoming the Chinese leader, the mayor said that his visit will be recorded as a significant event in the annals of the council and recalled the visit of the president of the People's Republic of China, Li Xiannian, and Madame Lin Jiamei in March 1986. Mr. Hussain Mohamed said that Mr. Li Peng represents a great and an ancient nation which can be described as the cradle of human civilization. He observed that it is a historical coincidence that Mr. Li has chosen to visit this city in the midst of its 125th anniversary celebrations and praised the council's history and the system of local government since ancient times in Sri Lanka. Mayor Hussain Mohamed said that Sri Lanka has had most friendly and cordial ties with China over the centuries. These ties have created solid cultural, social, and economic relations. The mayor added that Premier Li Peng's visit will further strengthen this relationship.

Premier Li Peng in response said that the heart-warming remarks made by the mayor embody the profound friendly sentiments of the Sri Lankan people toward the Chinese people. He expressed appreciation and admiration for the efforts by Sri Lanka to build a modern state and to safeguard national independence and sovereignty. He also spoke highly of Sri Lanka's policy in international affairs and the efforts to promote cooperation within and outside the region.

Mr. Li Peng said that China through hard work of its people has been transformed into a socialist new China and the policy reforms and opening up have brought unprecedented progress. At present China enjoys political and social stability and sustained economic growth.

The Chinese leader recalled the age-old exchanges between the Chinese and Sri Lankan people. In recent times, the two countries have forged and developed a new type of state-to-state relationship based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence. Premier Li Peng noted that for over three decades the two countries have supported each other and conducted friendly cooperation in bilateral relations and international affairs. He said the Sino-Sri Lankan relationship have become an exemplary model for cooperation between the two countries with different social systems.

The visiting premier said that the Chinese Government and the people value their friendship with Sri Lanka. He expressed confidence that the relations between the two countries will develop steadily.